

# WILDCAT WRITERS '95



Westview C. S. S.





*Duke Nguy*  
-artist, editor,  
typist-



*Suresh Sriskandarajah*  
-computer expert,  
editor, typist-



*Tae Eng*  
-photographer,  
editor, typist-



*Sharmila Shewprasad*  
-editor, typist-



*Dhanish Patel*  
-technical graphics,  
computer expert-

○ **"ZINE'S VOICE"**

After hours and hours of hard work we finally have this to show for our efforts. This is a literary work in which there are the writings of all of the Semester II grade 9 students of 1995. Inside of this Zine are deepest thoughts, fondest memories and future desires. We hope Westview Grade 9s will continue with this tradition.

○

○



*Woodrow Do*  
-editor, typist-



*Lily Mac*  
-editor, typist-



*Theepa Thayalagulasingham*  
-artist-



*Mr. Pugh*  
-supporter-

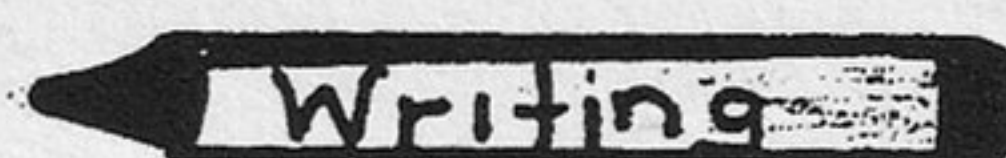
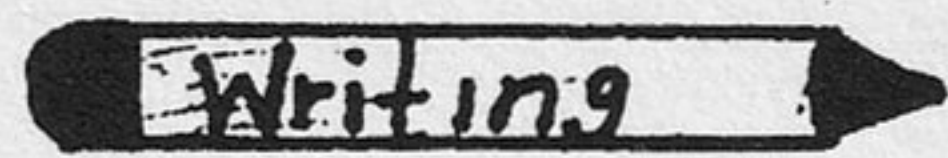


*Stacey-Ann Boreland*  
-assistant editor-



*Ms. Eisenstat*  
-supporter-





### Luu But

Lưu là để thưởng, để nhớ  
Bút là viết nỗi niềm duyên  
nào ai để bạc để tiền  
Biết hôm, đời biết u phiền cho ai  
Người trước vậy, người sau cũng vậy  
Có bao nhiêu ghi lại bấy nhiêu  
để mai sớm sớm chiều chiều  
ta ngồi nhớ lại ít nhiều nhớ nhau.

∞ Nancy Tran ∞

Writing to each other helps convey our feelings about each other.

We write to show our feelings for other people.

Some people leave each other money, but people can also share their feelings.

In the past, people have done this, And in the future they will continue to express their thoughts and feelings.

One day in the future we will read over these writings again, And they will remind us of the time we had together.







## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### COMING TO CANADA

First experience in Canada - Mike Tran .....	4
Coming to Canada - Stacey Ann Boreland.....	4
First night in Canada - Ruth Lazo.....	5
Canada: dream and reality - Thusha Kathirkamanthan.....	6
New country, new love? - Andrea Reid.....	6

### AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

Autobiography of Sam - Sam Prasad.....	7
Autobiography of Kemar - Kemar Bailey.....	7
Who I was in the past - Sarah Anwer .....	8
Who I am now - Luch Tor .....	8
Autobiography of Nithya - Nithya Ratnam.....	8
My past, present and future - Jonathan Canphirak	9
Past and Future - Ghedlawit Futzum.....	9
My personal profile - Trung Co .....	10
The past of Monica and Saba - Monica B. & Saba C .....	10
Vijay - Vijay Sukhanandan.....	10
I miss my past - Randa Ibrahim .....	11
All about Suresh - Suresh Sriskandarajah.....	11
About myself - Lily Mac.....	11
Autobiography of Woodrow - Woodrow Do.....	12
Autobiography of Duke - Duke Nguy.....	13
About myself - Shannan S.C.....	13
My past memory - Manh Dinh.....	13
My life - Tahira McCalla.....	14
In the present - Robert Singh.....	14
My past - Manh Dinh.....	14
Memories - Eliza Lai-Yin Lam.....	14
True Story - Toan Nguyen .....	15
Autobiography of Cory - Cory Richards.....	15
Autobiography of Sonia Flores.....	16
My past - Noorjahan Ali.....	17
I love my life - Shane Francis .....	18
My past, present and future - Kuong Khov.....	18

### GENERAL POEMS

Friends - Yogeeta Nagindas.....	19
Something special - Monika Badwal.....	19
A day to remember - Dolly Campbell and Dorothy Kidd.....	19
Spring - Azaad Gaffar.....	19
Running - Suresh Sriskandarajah.....	19
Sri Lanka - Nithya Ratnam.....	20
Westview - Yogeeta Nagindas .....	20
Pleasant dream - Saba Chaudry.....	20
El Salvador - Sonia Flores.....	20
A friend - Thanh Nguyen.....	20
R.I.P. - Shannan S.C.....	21
I wanna - Suresh Sriskandarajah.....	21

### GENERAL POEMS (continued)

In my life - Shannan Souk Chamroeun.....	21
Bad things about life - Anil D. Chaman.....	21
Father - Jimmy Ma - .....	22
A recipe for a perfect Mom - Andrea Reid.....	22
A poem about the past - Sarah Anwer.....	22
Death - Toan Nguyen.....	23
Birthday - Khizhar Awan.....	23
Home - Buu Nhan Kha.....	23
Rose - Andrew Durga.....	23

### STORIES

The scheduled class trip - Neil Sannangala.....	24
What if? - Tae Eng.....	25
My school years - Dhanish Patel.....	25
The revenge - Khizer Awan.....	26
Living on the edge - Stacia Campbell.....	26
Being rich, what is it? - Toan Nguyen.....	27
Rich! What is it? - Nichole Gabbidon.....	27
Where to shop - Vijay Sukhanandan.....	27
Our school - Sonia Flores.....	28
Ticket to your dreams - Stacia Campbell.....	28
My weekends throughout the year - Tae Eng.....	29
My best weekend - Sonia Flores.....	29
Guys - Nicolette Wright .....	30
My girl - Marvin Yemon.....	30
Qualities in a girlfriend - Suresh Sriskandarajah.....	30
Singing is a song of joy - Dorothy Kidd.....	31
A love story (tall tale) - Omar Baylis.....	31
My most memorable weekend - Toan Nguyen.....	32
Computers - Shaun Best.....	33
Who am I? - Randy Ruiz.....	33
Make our school a better place - Theepa Thayalakulasingham.....	34
How we can make Westview a better school - Ajanthan Rasantan.....	34
Racism - Nithya Ratnam.....	35
How I feel about being at school - Thusha Kanagaratnam.....	35
Fate - Sharmila Shewprasad.....	36
Harassment - Anita Kumar.....	37
Why I like my church - Cherry Elcock.....	38
I believe in God.....	38
Eid - Kadra Dayr & Nesreen Zeidan.....	39
My trees - Sharmila Shewprasad .....	40
The beautiful spring - Yogeeta Nagindas.....	40
My parents are my heroes - Thu Huong Nguyen.....	41
My hero - Nery Comejo.....	42
My heroic mother - Lily (Anh) Le.....	42
Why my parents are my heroes - Nga Tran.....	43
My unforgettable hero.....	43
My grandmother - Vinh Bui.....	43
My aunt Hawa - Ayanle Abdullahi.....	43



## LOVE POEMS

Love Poets - photographs.....	44
Learning to love..again - Yingan Huynh.....	45
Within your heart - Simone Lee.....	45
You and I..forever friends- Yingan Huynh.....	45
The love triangle - Thanh Nguyen.....	46
Only friends - Anonymous.....	46
My sorrow - Kadra Dayr.....	46
What's wrong? - Sam Prasad.....	46
Time - Monika Badwal.....	47
Only for you! - Thu Yuong.....	47
Confused - Nithya Ratnam.....	47
I love you - Sam Prasad.....	47
First love - Woodrow Do.....	47
Love is tender - Adwoa Gyasi-Nimako.....	48
Love is a feeling - Alvin Patrick.....	48
Love is something to cherish - Adwoa Gyasi-Nimako.....	48
Love is special - Anil D. Charan.....	48
The heart of the matter - Perpetual Adom.....	48
Bleeding heart - Adwoa Gyasi-Nimako.....	49
Goodbye - Parmjit Barwait.....	49
I'm sorry - Brian Lee.....	49
I died for love - Nesreen Zeidan.....	49
Love...always? - Thu Yuong & Yingan Huynh.....	49
Dream girl - Suresh Sriskandarajah.....	50
I want a girl - Alvin Patrick.....	50
My girl - Junior Adedokun.....	50
Strange young girls - Natalie Patterson.....	50
In my life - Shannan Souk Chamroeun.....	51
The love touch - Stacey Ann Boreland.....	51
One and only - Anil Charan.....	51
The roads of life - Woodrow Do.....	52
Two roads - Thanh Nguyen.....	52

## HOBBIES

My most memorable day in volleyball- Neil Sannasgala.....	53
Favourite sport - Anh Ta.....	54
Places I like to go - Daniel Maldonado.....	54
Hip hop - Brian Morrissey.....	55
My favourite radio stations - Dorcas Kushimo.....	55
In my spare time - Junior Adedokun.....	55
Football - Marlon Stewart.....	56
Sports - Ghelawit Futzum.....	56
My weekends - Anh Ta.....	56
Shot gun - Ricky Doodnaught.....	57
Lamborghini Countach - Suresh Sriskandarajah.....	57

## FUTURE PLANS

What I am looking for in the future - Randa Ibrahim.....	58
Who I am in the future - Nichole Gabbidon.....	58
Future hope - Travis Tritten.....	58
Beyond the future - Buu Nhan Kha.....	58
Summer break - Duke Nguy.....	59
Summer plans - Kulmie Dahir.....	59
My future of dedication - Chhean Kheav.....	60
Plans for this summer - Andrew Ocomojobi.....	60
D.O.A. - Brian Lee.....	61
Upcoming summer - Mark Dieng.....	61
Endless dreams - Lily Mac.....	62
When I grow up I want to be - Alvin Patrick.....	62
Victor's past, present and future - Victor Rosales.....	63





## First experience in Canada

On the sixth of December 1989, my family and I left from Vietnam to come to Canada. We were looking for a better future and a nice place to start all over again. When we came to Canada, the weather was very cold. I had never seen snow before in my life. Also there was no hot water in Vietnam. In Canada there was a lot of hot water. My family and I lived in a small neighbourhood in North York.

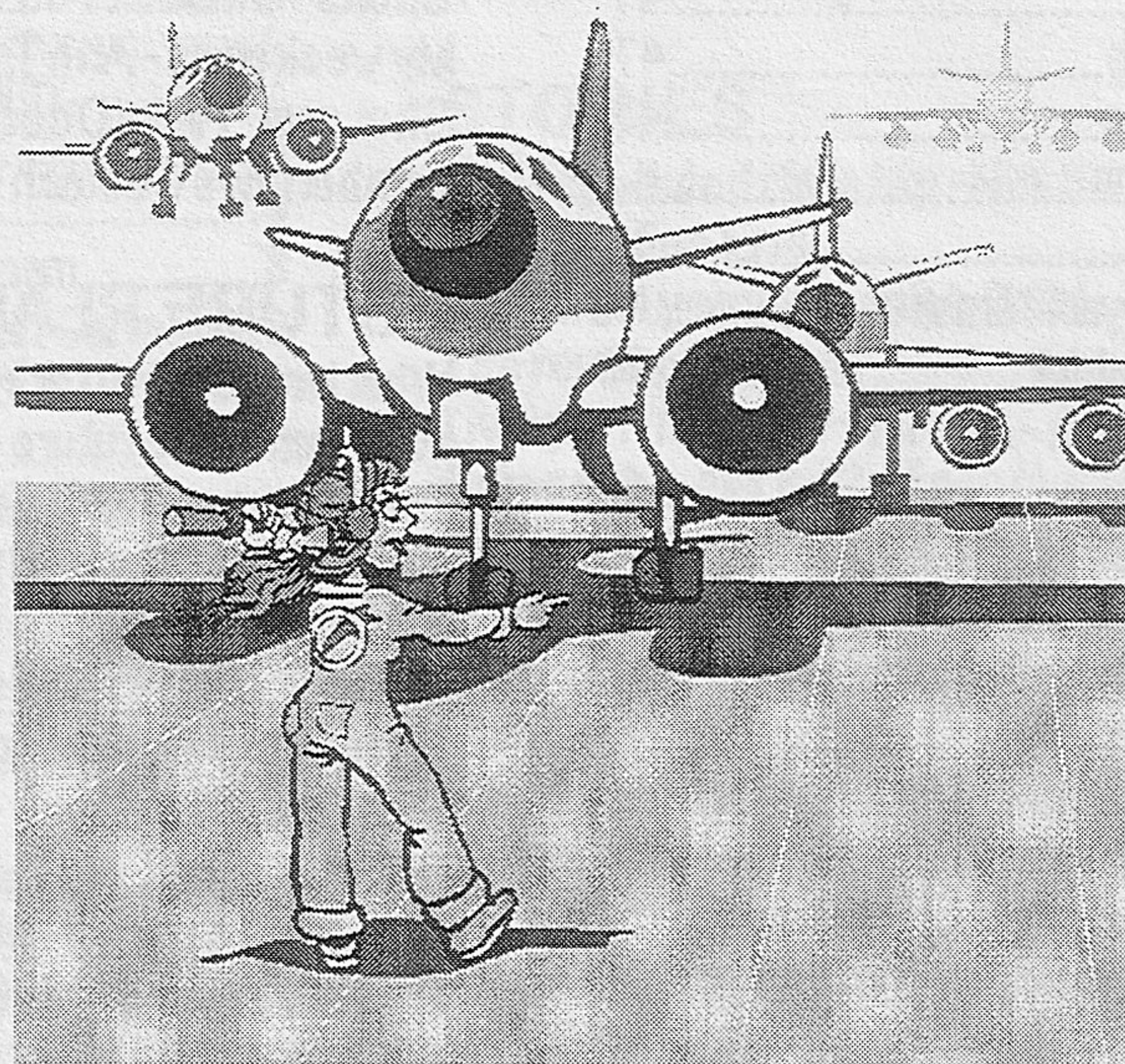
When we came to Canada I knew that I had to go to school, but I was scared to go to school, because I never went to school in Vietnam. I didn't know how to write, read, or even speak English. My first day at school was very good. I thought people were going to make fun of me, because of how I looked. They didn't, because there were different races of students. Also the first time I went to the store with my friend, I took some stickers and put them in my pocket and I walked out of the store. Suddenly, two security guards grabbed me and took me to their office. I was really scared, because I didn't know what was happening. After they found out that I didn't speak English, they called a person who could speak Vietnamese to explain the situation to me. They said that I stole some stickers from their store. The security guard asked me what my phone number was. I told the security guard through the Vietnamese person, I didn't know my phone number. The security guard asked me if I knew the way to get home. Then the security guard took me home and told my parents. I didn't know that I had to pay for it. From then on I realized that the stickers weren't for free, and that you had to pay for everything in the store.

∞ *Mike Tran* ∞



## Coming to Canada

Coming to Canada was a joy for me. I felt very great when the plane just landed. The plane ride was so cool and relaxing. At first, I thought the plane wasn't moving, but then I realised that the plane couldn't stop in the air. The food on the plane was very delicious. Enjoyable!



Although Canada seems to be a nice place, sometimes I regret coming here because I faced a lot of difficulties most of the time, especially with people. For example, you try to do good for people and most of them don't appreciate it. They talk about you behind your back and you get in trouble with them.

The good foods they have here are very delicious. My favorite food is shake and

bake chicken with mashed potatoes. What I like best about Canada is that there are a lot of malls where you could go shopping and buy whatever you want, as long as you have the money. I hate the winter because it's very cold. It normally makes me freeze.

I started going to school in September of 94. I started to meet new friends and a lot of them seemed to be very nice but on the other side, some were very mean. I met this young girl by the name of Perpetual. Perpetual is a very nice friend; she is understanding and very easy to talk to. I would like to help my family in the future and hope Perpetual will continue to be my rest of my life.

I plan to live my life in Canada, and I hope I will become a teacher of English and Spanish.

∞ *Stacey Ann Boreland* ∞





## First night in Canada

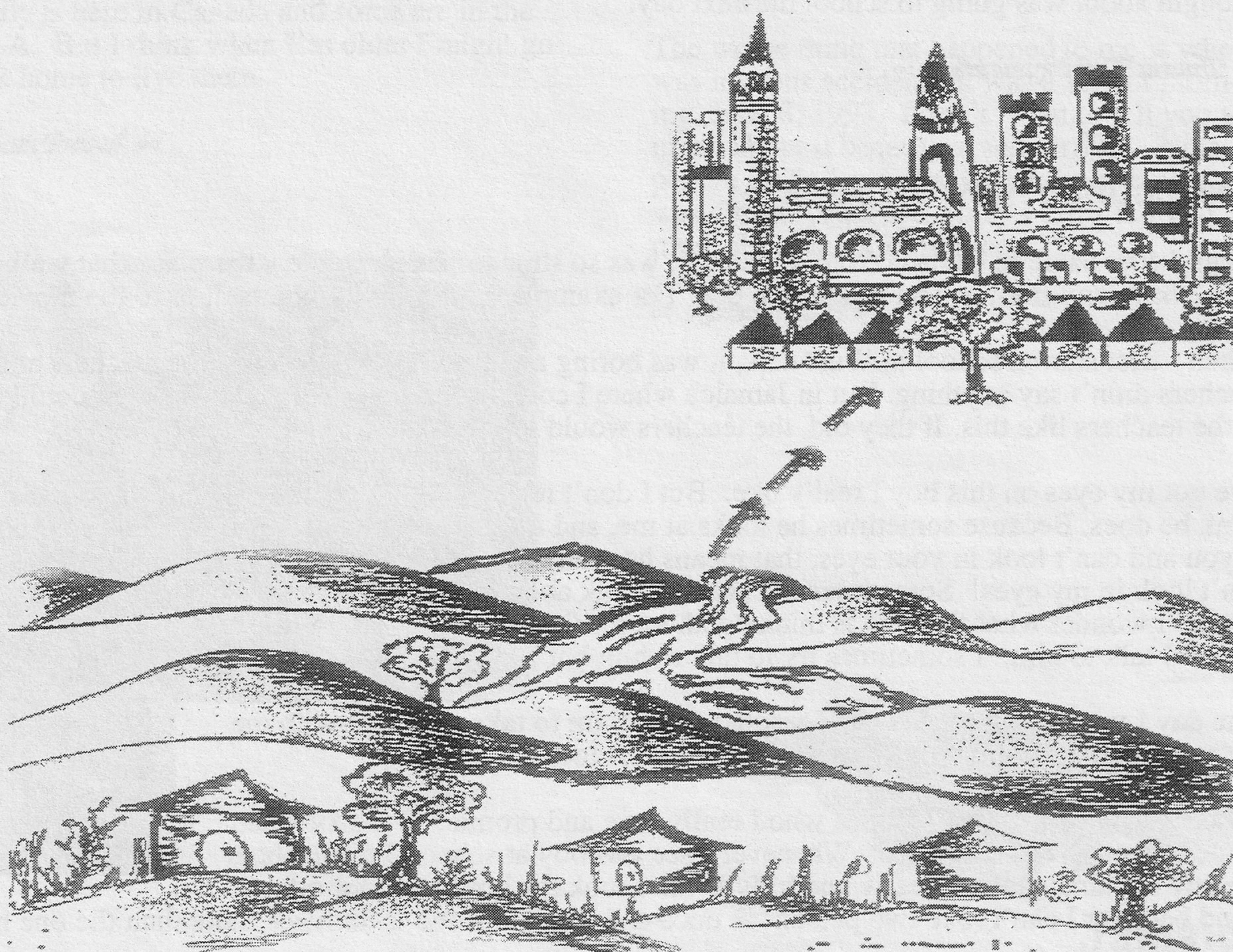


When I came to Canada I was ten years old. My first day in Canada was very sad, because I had just left some of my family in El Salvador.

I came to Canada on April 24, 1990. It was during the night. When we were about to land I saw all of the lights on the ground of the airport. When I saw all of those lights it scared me, because I thought we were going to crash into all of them. However, when we landed it was very different from El Salvador, because when you land in El Salvador you don't see that many lights. We got into a van at the airport that was going to take us to the hotel.

Then when we were going to the hotel I saw many tall buildings. You never see so many tall buildings in El Salvador. When we got to the hotel it was eleven o'clock. All the lights were off. Only a lady was awake. She showed us to our room and when I was going to sleep I started to think that I was never going to learn English.

∞ *Ruth Lazo* ∞







## Who I was in the past

I was born in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. My favourite memory from the past is the love I used to have with my family. I lost it all, when I had to make a smart move a couple of months ago and in return I got nothing. During the time I was in Winnipeg, I had faced a lot of pain, I didn't know how it would go away, so I tried cheering myself up with music, and it worked. I did get cheered up, but the pain that was inside me, without my parents, was hurting. I used to cry every night before I'd go to sleep, and I'd face the same thing again the next day. We were there for two months, I have no idea how I made it up there. I thought that when I'd come back to Toronto I'd receive all the love I had missed from them, but I didn't. The love just lasted for 3-4 days- no longer.

Everybody had changed, my parents weren't like they were before. I thought they would be happy about my decision. They were in the beginning, but then it had all changed, just by that one move. They have changed too much. I just wonder that if we didn't go to Winnipeg, would life be like that? I don't know, because I just wish I could get all that back again, the love, can't they see how I feel? I don't think so, because if they did, they would have responded. But it could probably be that they cannot see how I feel. It is because I wear a mask of happiness. What's under that, you wouldn't want to know.

The person who influenced me in the past was my Grandfather, even though I hadn't seen him before, I thought I'd follow his steps. I had heard a lot of things about him that I liked, and hope to be just like him throughout my life. He was a great man. I miss him. I just wish I could have seen him once.

I have never been to my home country but I do plan on going in the near future. I don't know much about my family history, but I know that I'm born a Canadian.

∞ *Sarah Answer* ∞



## Who am I now?

My name is Luch Tor and I come from Cambodia. My favourite sports are baseball and volleyball. When I grow up I want to be a computer programmer, because I am good with computers. I've had a computer since I was eight years old. Right now I just go to school and try hard to get all my credits. After school I hang around the mall, and chill with my friends. My friends sit down and wait for a pretty girl to walk by, so they can whistle to her. Most of the girls smile, and some just walk away and swear. After an hour or two at the mall, I go home and do my homework. After I finish my homework, usually my girlfriend Sheyla calls me. I've been going out with her for two years already, and I still love her very much.



∞ *Luch Tor* ∞

## Autobiography of Nithya



Hi! My name is Nithya Ratnam. I have long brown hair and dark brown eyes. I am a grade nine student at Westview. I have two sisters and no bothers. I was born in Sri Lanka and came to Canada in 1988. My country is the second most literate country in Asia after Japan. I am the eldest child in the family. My mother is Sivavathy Ratnam. My sisters are Shobana & Thrishiga. In Sri Lanka, I lived in the city of Jaffna. I speak a Dravidian language called Tamil. I lived in a large house with my aunts and a cousin brother. When I came to Canada, I lived in Montreal for a year. Then I moved to Toronto. I moved about three times in Toronto. I am living near Jane & Finch. My hobbies are watching t.v. and reading books. I am really proud to be a Sri Lankan. I hope I didn't bore you with my story.

∞ *Nithya Ratnam* ∞



## Past and future



My past will always be important to me because a lot of things happened to me. Some things were good and in other cases, some things were bad. I sometimes wish I could go back to the past because I was younger and had much more fun. But now

things are harder and much different because there are more children in my house. I enjoyed things better when it was only my sister and I. The thing I miss most about my past is all the fun I had. I had no problems because I was just young and free with no responsibilities.

The thing I am looking forward to in the future is to succeed. I don't want to be a failure. I want to accomplish all my goals in life. I would like to become a doctor and raise a family of my own. I really want to give my child the same opportunities my parents gave me.

My favourite meal is pizza because all you have to do is call a number and order. You don't have to cook over a stove. There is absolutely no hassle involved in ordering a pizza, just be sure to have the money to pay for it. The most important part I like about pizza is that it tastes GOOD!!

My favourite sport is basketball because you can enjoy watching it and also playing it. I think if we had a survey, basketball would be the most favoured game. My favourite team is the Indiana Pacers and my favourite player is Reggie Miller. I like this team because they are a good team and Reggie Miller, who is a player on that team is a good team player and he is also cute!!

My favourite type of music is R&B because it sounds good. It is easy to learn the words because it goes so slow. It is very relaxing to listen to R&B. My favourite group is TLC because their music sends out messages to the young people listening to them. In other words, their music is positive.

∞ Ghedlawit Futzum ∞

## My past, present and future



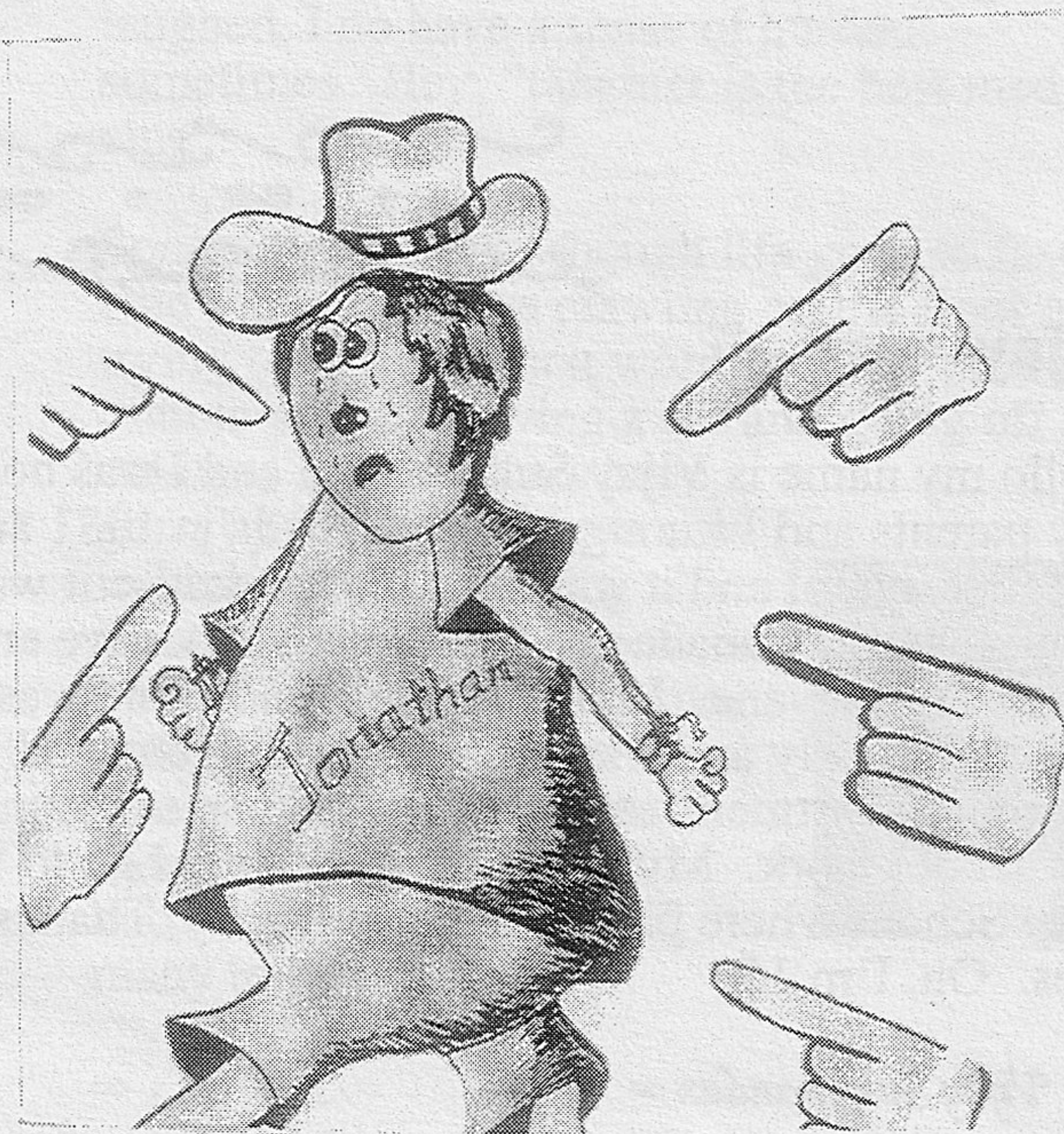
In my past, I was a good kid who went to Gosford Public School. I liked going to school because I always finished my work. I'd always listen to my parents. In my final year at Gosford, I worked hard. Then I went to

Brookview Middle School. It was a big step for me. In grade 6, I worked well, but got bad marks. In grade 7, my hard work paid off, because I was on the honour roll for all three terms. In grade 8, I started to change. I didn't finish my work, skipped class, etc. But I was lucky because I had a teacher who told me to never give up. The teacher's name was Mr. Murray.

Now I'm attending Westview Centennial Secondary School. Early in grade 9, I was working hard because I thought I was going to fail. In the middle of grade 9, I started bugging people, not finishing my work, sneaking out of class and skipping class. I regret it now. When I was skipping class, I was causing trouble and getting into trouble with the police. My parents were worried about me.

I think I'm not going to get a good job. I think I'll get a miserable job and I will regret it.

∞ Jonathan Chanphirak ∞





## My personal profile

In my past, I've faced a lot of sadness which consists of losing good friends, relatives passing away, and more. What I've really missed most about my past, is now I've tried really hard to contribute everything that I could in order to make my past successful. The things that I am looking forward to in the future is that if I dream about something good, I hope it will personally come true for me because in such ways I really do deserve it! I don't really have a specific food that I prefer to eat, but I have different ways of judging the taste of it. As long as I get something then I'll be fine, but some people are actually greedy to get something, but I'm not one of those people that are like that. My favourite sports which I enjoy playing are hockey, and baseball. My favourite teams for hockey is the Toronto Maple Leafs, Quebec Nordiques, and the Philadelphia Flyers. My favourite baseball teams for baseball are the Toronto Blue Jays, and the Montreal Expos. The reason I'm telling you these things is because I'm trying to express to you a little bit about my personal life.



∞ *Trung Co* ∞

## The past of Monika and Saba

There are a lot of deep and dark secrets that have to be let out now. These two girls have been good friends since high school. They are both now at the age of 78.

In those days when they were in high school, they were very close minded. They had no sense of what they were getting into. At the age of 17, Monika gave birth to Jean-Claude Van Damme and Saba gave birth to Keanu Reeves. Now you see, they both went through a very hard time raising them. Jean-Claude's father left him and Monika as soon as he was born, and Keanu's father left him and Saba after one year, because he felt that too much pressure was being put on him.

The girls did not know what to do with the kids, because both Monika and Saba didn't have jobs. They put Keanu and Jean-Claude up for adoption. Now they cannot believe that their sons are famous stars, working in Hollywood, and making millions of dollars. Like any other mothers, they would just like to have one chance to hug their sons.

Please make note that everything that you have just read is 100% true.

∞ *Monika B. & Saba C.* ∞



## Vijay

Hello my name is Vijay Sukhnandan and I was born in Burbice, Guyana which is a little town. My parents and I immigrated to Canada in 1981 and we moved to Toronto, Ontario. Parkdale was my first school and it was very scary because it was new and different. My dad's family was in Canada and they were supportive and nice. My mom's side remained in Guyana. I failed grade 1 and 2 and wasn't proud of it. My babysitter was an old lady and she was nice, intelligent, and smart. We lived in a small two-bedroom apartment. My hobbies are playing tennis and fishing but I mostly do my school work. My life is so, so boring. I go to Westview Centennial Secondary School where people there are funny. Thanks for listening to me for 3 minutes. Oh, I'm 15.

∞ *Vijay Sukhnandan* ∞





## I miss my past

I like the past because I didn't get into a lot of trouble and didn't get a lot of homework. It's fun being young and I wish I could stay young so I could have all the fun I want and I wouldn't be here in Mr. Rammo's class today doing ENGLISH. I would've still been a little kid doing what I want to do, but now I'm all grown up, I get into trouble, and I get homework, "BOR-ING!" Now I have to live with this future I have now. I wish I could go back to those days when I was young and had fun.



∞ *Randa Ibrahim* ∞

## All about Suresh

Since everyone's name in my family begins with an "S", my grandfather called me Suresh.

My mother's name is Mrs. Sriskandarajah Selvy. I have two young brothers, whose names also start with an "S". I am not lucky enough to have a sister.

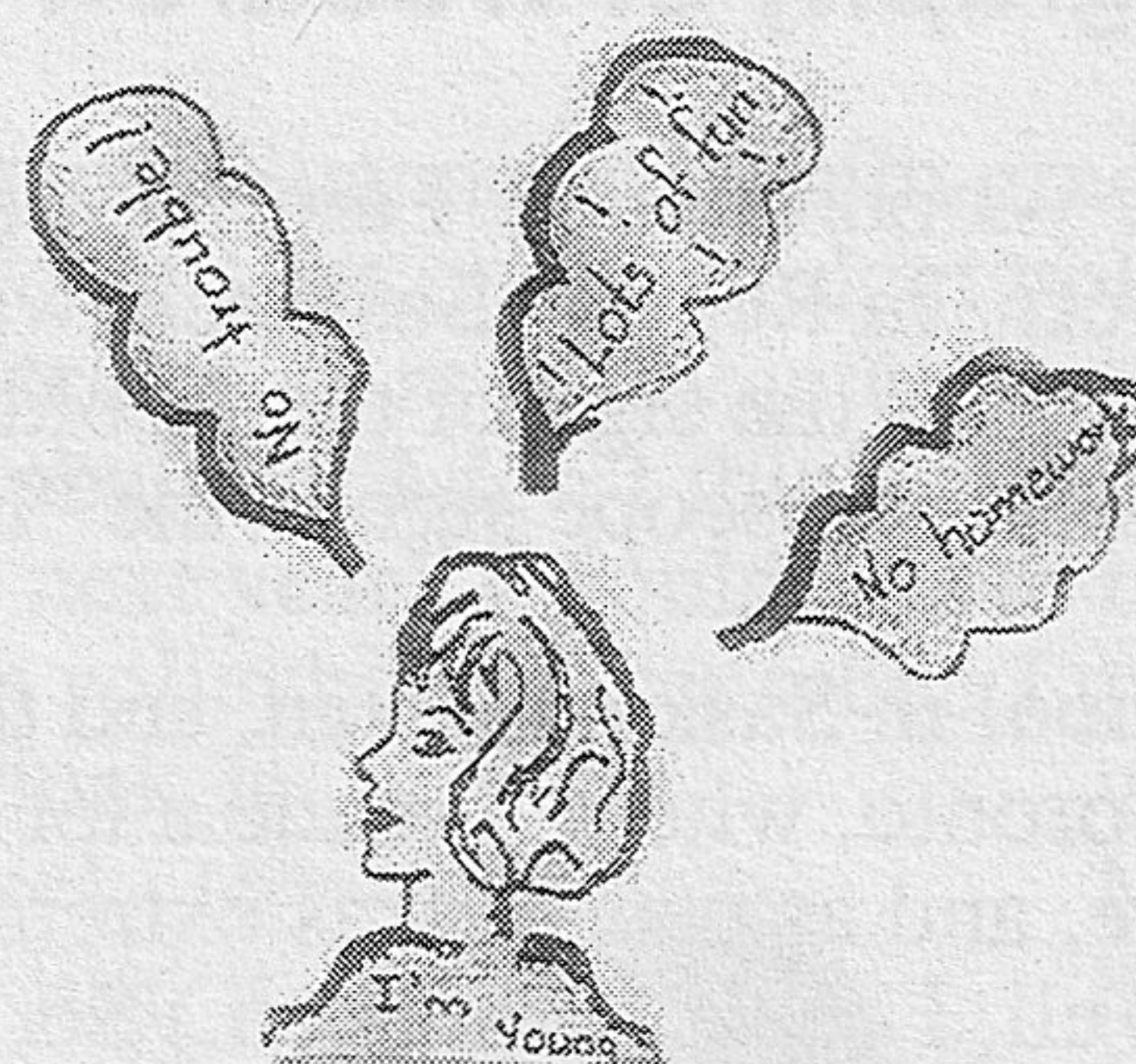


I was

born fourteen years ago in Tamil Eelam (Sri Lanka). Now I live at Jane and Finch. I practise many interesting activities daily such as track and field, cross country, baseball, etc.

In my free time, I usually watch the Discovery Channel. I prefer programs on wild animals and on computers. Many people call me "brainer", but I don't think I'm so smart. I'm just a hard worker. My main goal is to become a mechanical engineer working in the field of automobiles. I have many other goals and responsibilities.

∞ *Suresh Sriskandarajah* ∞



## About myself

My name is Lily Mac. I was born 15 years ago in a place in East Asia called Hong Kong.

I come from a Chinese family where we speak Cantonese. We are Buddhists and visit the temple during the new year. I appreciate my culture and feel contented to be born Chinese.

I am a hardworking, focussed student. I don't appreciate irritation while working, but I tend to have that wherever I am. Education comes first for me and enjoyment later. It is how I always live my life. I enjoy and value my education. School is challenging and stimulating.

I am a serious person, but if you ever have a joke to tell, I'd like to hear it. I like to laugh — honest! Here's another side to me. I used to be called "The Laughing Machine" because my face would always turn red when I laughed. I do have a sense of humour — sometimes. Hey, "laughter is the best medicine".

Sometimes I feel as though life goes so fast. One minute you are crawling on the floor and trying to say your first word "cookie", the next minute you are driving a car and going off to college. Fifteen years have gone by for me and I am now in high school. Coming all the way to where I am now is kind of hard to believe, especially after reflecting over many obstacles that I have faced and conquered and knowing that there are still many to be faced yet.



∞ *Lily Mac* ∞





## My life



Hi. My name is Tahirah. I live around Jane and Finch. I was born in Jamaica and I came to Canada when I was 2 years old. I would like to go back and live in Kingston, Jamaica. In my spare time I like to go out to parties and talk on the phone. That's all I have to say about myself.

The reason why I want to go back is because over here life is so dull and boring and cold. I want to go back to my home town.

∞ *Tahirah McCalla* ∞

## My past



I was born in June of 1981, in Taiwan. My grandparents are half Chinese and half Vietnamese. I came to Canada when I was 6 years old. I lived in Edmonton, Alberta for one year and then I came to Toronto, Ontario. I lived in Mississauga for about a year and then I moved to Topcliff and started grade 3, not knowing what I was doing. But I graduated in grade 5. The best part about the past is playing around with people, making jokes and playing stunts on them. Then I went to grade 6 and stopped fooling around, and tried not to be immature.

∞ *Manh Dinh* ∞

## In the Present

It is the year 1995, and I'm living in a Tobermory building. I go to Westview C.S.S. and I'm in grade 9. I'm 14 years old and a big fan of hip hop. I listen to Biggie Smalls, Method Man and things like that. Every day I play basketball with my friends after school, I like to go and visit various sights like the Skydome and the CN Tower. I would love to drive a Buick, a Toyota, and a Nissan, because those are the cars that we have in the present. I can't wait 'till the future comes when we will have better things



∞ *Robert Singh* ∞

## Memories

Well, I don't exactly have any favourite memories from the past, but all those memories are very important to me. So much has happened, I just don't know where to begin. Going through some photo albums, old and new, just seeing how much things have changed and how much I've changed, brings back a lot of memories. A lot of the past just comes rushing back to me. I can even find myself with tears in my eyes. Whether it was happy or sad, fun or boring, some things are just hard to forget. There are things you would like to erase from the past, but things have been done, and are just not that easily forgotten. Memories are very precious. Although you can't go back and live the past over, memories will never be forgotten.



∞ *Eliza Lai-Yin Lam* ∞



## I want to tell you: true story (some of it) of Toan Nguyen



The following accounts are totally true. The facts have not been affected by hallucinations, illusions, mirages, or visions of any sort. Everything discussed here is totally confidential and should not be

discussed without a written consent from Toan. This story has been formatted to fit the page and is available in CD's (compact disc), LD's (laser disc), and even MCD (mini compact disc) and can be purchased some time in the near future in all HMV music stores across Canada. Now grab a set, coke, popcorn and sit back and relax for the feature presentation.

Vietnam, 1983. August 12

My grandmother sits in her ancient rocking chair patiently waiting for her favourite son to come home from work. As my grandmother waited my mother took an evening shower. A group of poorly dressed men with toothpicks in their mouths strolled into my house and picked up my grandmother off her two feet. They demanded to see my father at once or else they would take all our belongings. They were too impatient and so they took all the furniture including the rocking chair and left in a hurry.

My mother then finished her shower and came out marveling at the sight. There in a corner of the empty house, curled up like a ball was my grandmother. At the same time my father had come home from work looking depressed as always, soaked from head to toe from the terrible storm outside. He stood in the driveway with his jaw wide open, his eyes wide opened, and he rubbed his eyes again and again. After coming back to his senses he said, "Mom we owe the government too much. If we don't find a reasonable way of making a few bucks, the next thing they're going to take will be our lives. My job can only do so much, I mean after all we do have 48 people in our family and my job can't pay off all the debts."

That night my parents stayed up figuring out a solution to their problems. I couldn't tell them my opinion because I was just three at the time. Eventually they came up with a solution: to emigrate to Canada. The setback was only a few could board at once and my family was

too big to do so. They packed their suitcases and left on that breezy and chilling night. They boarded the small vessel and paid a huge sum of money to the captain. The ship carried more than 20 people and had a huge motor. There was hardly a place to sit. The boat promptly set sail and was off immediately that night. That was how I came to Canada.

∞ *Toan Nguyen* ∞



## Autobiography of Cory



I was born in 1980 in Toronto, Ontario. When I was two years old my parents and I moved to Sturgeon Falls. It is a small town, close to North Bay, with a population of 6500. I lived in a small house on the Native reserve right beside the lake.

City people think that country people are crazy but people in small towns think that city people are crazy. I didn't know the difference. My dad took me fishing all the time. In a small town the air is cleaner and everybody knows everybody. It is nice and quiet.

When I was 10 years old we had to move back to Toronto. I don't like Toronto because it is too loud and dirty. When I get my education I'm going to move back to Sturgeon Falls.

∞ *Cory Richards* ∞



## Autobiography of Sonia Flores

My first memory is of my family in a beautiful forest setting in El Salvador. El Salvador is in Central America. It has only two seasons, spring and summer. In spring it rains a lot, from May to October. The rest of the summer for us is warm and sometimes cool. The place where I used to live had a lot of trees and flowers. That is why I called it a forest when I was only three years old. My mom named me Sonia Marisol Flores Martinez. In my country I always used my whole name. I was really popular from kindergarten until the beginning of grade six. I had the highest marks of all the students in my school. My teachers were proud of me and my classmates.



My school's name was Leonardo Da Vinci. My best friend was Lorena Rivera. We were always in the same class. I really enjoyed being with her and my other friends. We played skipping rope, basketball and other games. One thing that I liked a lot about my school is that in Phys Ed we could do anything we wanted. Our teacher taught us how to knit in Phys Ed. Independence Day was fun because you got out of class, to see what had been organized by other students.

When I came to Canada everything was really strange. I didn't really like this country at first. The school that I went to was really boring. I didn't like it at all. Even though there were two Spanish teachers I didn't like it. After a few months I told my parents that I didn't like the school. They told me that it was almost the end of the year so I had to finish this year at this school. The school's name was Randall. I was only to finish grade six.

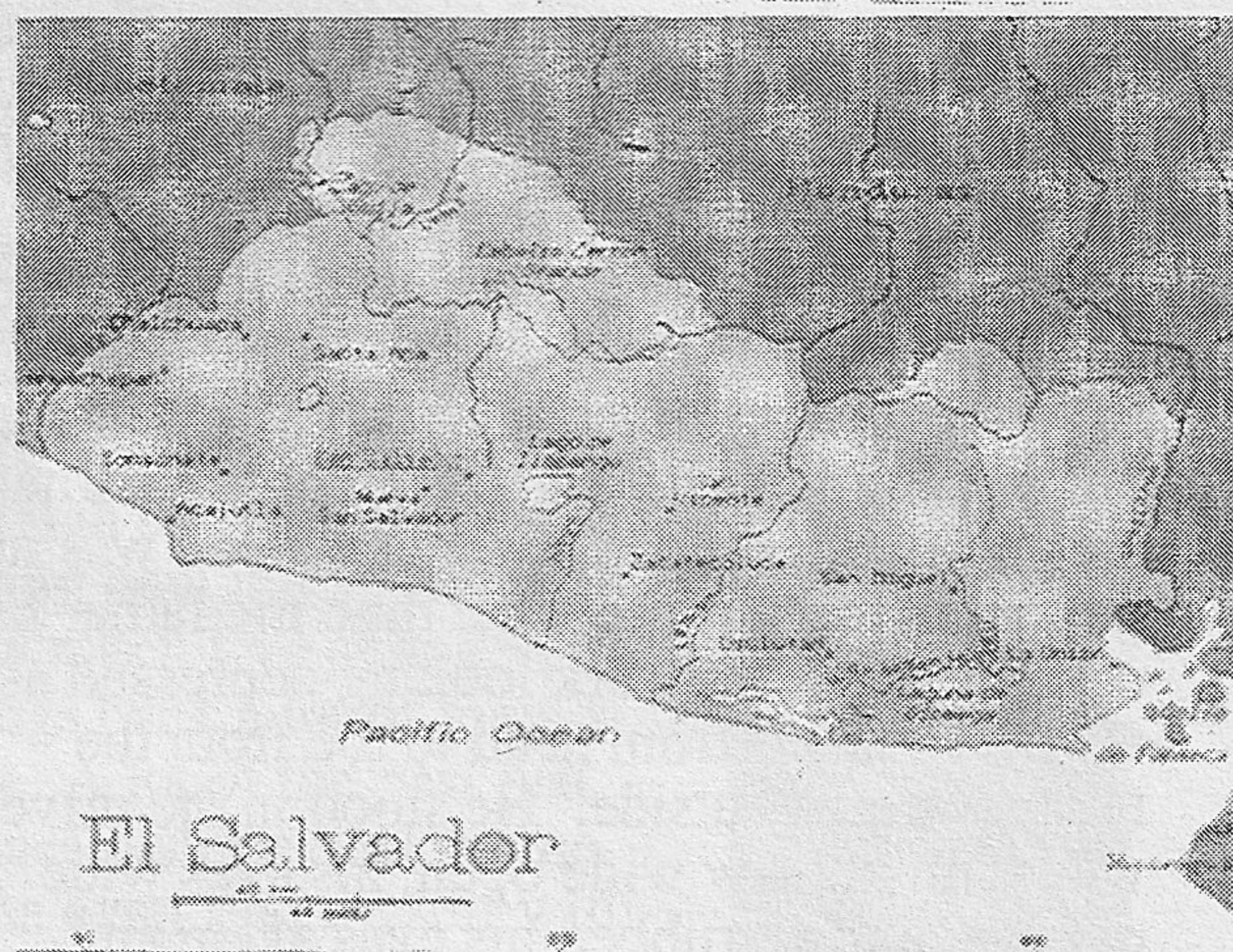
After that we moved to Scarborough, to a place where everything looked dead. I had to go to this school named Agnes MacPhail. I met lots of new friends. The two names that I remember most are Kerri O'Donnell and this other girl named Kerri M. I was in that school until the end of grade 7.

I was getting mad at my parents because we

had to move again. This time we move to 15 London Green. It was first time I liked where we lived. I went to this school named Oakdale Park Middle School. I met two girls named Sarah A. and Moui Ly. Sarah was a really close friend but now we are not that close.

Some of my friends come to Westview. At lunch we eat and walk around the school. I really like Westview. I think it's a good place to learn. I hope that I can work really hard throughout the years in Westview. I really hope that everyone has a successful year at Westview. I hope that each student accomplishes their goals through the coming years.

∞ Sonia Flores ∞





## My past

I come from a very large, loving family of seven. I have two brothers and two sisters. I am the fourth of five children.

My home country is Guyana. It is a country known as the "land of many waters" because Guyana is a tropical country with many palm trees, beaches and rivers. My homeland is where the world's tallest wooden building can be found, which is the St. George's Cathedral and the Keiteur Falls there is the world's highest single-drop falls.

My old neighbourhood is a small village called Rosignol in the countryside. Although I was born in the capital city, Georgetown, I grew up in the countryside. Every Saturday morning, all through my street, from early in the morning until noon, villagers set up stalls on which they sell everything from groceries to clothing.



When I was younger, I hardly found any ready-made clothes in stores. What I would mostly find was the cloth, which people would then take to be custom-made. Now, because of trade, there are mostly ready-made clothes.

One of my favourite memories from the past is attending school in Guyana. Teachers began disciplining kids from Kindergarten. The Kindergarten school that I attended, is about ten minutes away from my house, and the teachers there made sure that it was a comfortable place for students to be by having a bed there. If someone was tired or wasn't feeling well, the bed came in handy.

The name of the school that I went to after kindergarten, was Rosignol Primary School which is from grade 1-6. While attending that school, the uniform worn, changed from brown and white to green and white.

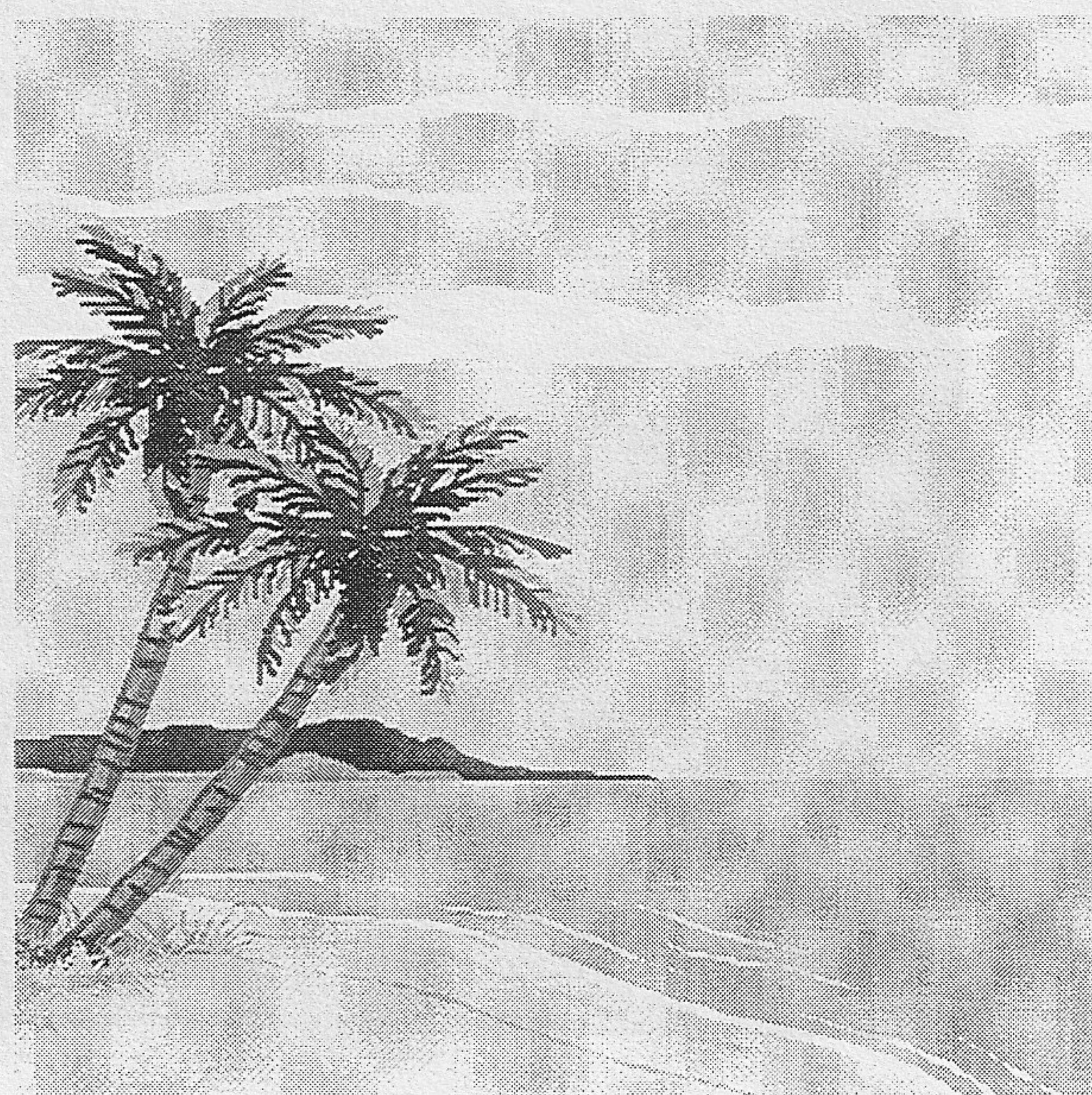
Another favourite memory of mine is hanging out with my friends in Guyana. Although in my neighbourhood there aren't any malls to go to, we would take the ferry across the river which wasn't far away from us and go shopping or just hang out.

An experience that changed my life was coming to Canada. Coming to Canada made me

see a whole new side of the world. I learned a lot about different cultures because Canada is a very multicultural country. The neighbourhood has a lot of people from the West Indies, so it gives me a chance to keep in touch with people from my culture. In Canada, you can get all the education you want and you can take your time through it. It made me realise that in order to succeed in the world, I need to get a good education. I now know how important education is and I have to take it seriously if I want a good start on my career.

In Guyana, my thoughts of Canada were of cold weather and snow. I have always dreamt of coming to Canada and I finally arrived here after a six hour flight at the end of August. That was the time of the year that it was just starting to get cold. I remember some nights in winter when I slept in a jogging suit, socks, and sometimes even gloves under a comforter!!! I am used to the cold weather now so it doesn't bother me anymore. My life in Guyana is very different compared to my life in Canada. I was more of the quiet type in Guyana but now that I am here, I find it much easier to open up myself to people and to express myself. I think that I really made the right choice of coming to Canada because it has given me the chance to see all the opportunities in life and it has given me an even better chance to fulfil my dream to become a doctor.

∞ Noorjahan Ali ∞





## Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a paradise  
That really doesn't have a price  
It can be free  
Looking at the palm tree  
Although to me Sri Lanka is the best  
Now let's put it to the test  
Kings and queens don't rule this island  
And now sorry but my poem has come to an end

∞ *Nithya Ratnam* ∞



## El Salvador

El Salvador is a Spanish speaking land,  
Lakes and beaches are filled with sand.  
Spain is El Salvador's background,  
And land covered all around.  
Lemons and limes are our things,  
Variety of different kinds of drinks,  
Adventurous places to tour,  
Darling children that are poor,  
Oranges that are sweet to eat,  
Running children in the heat.

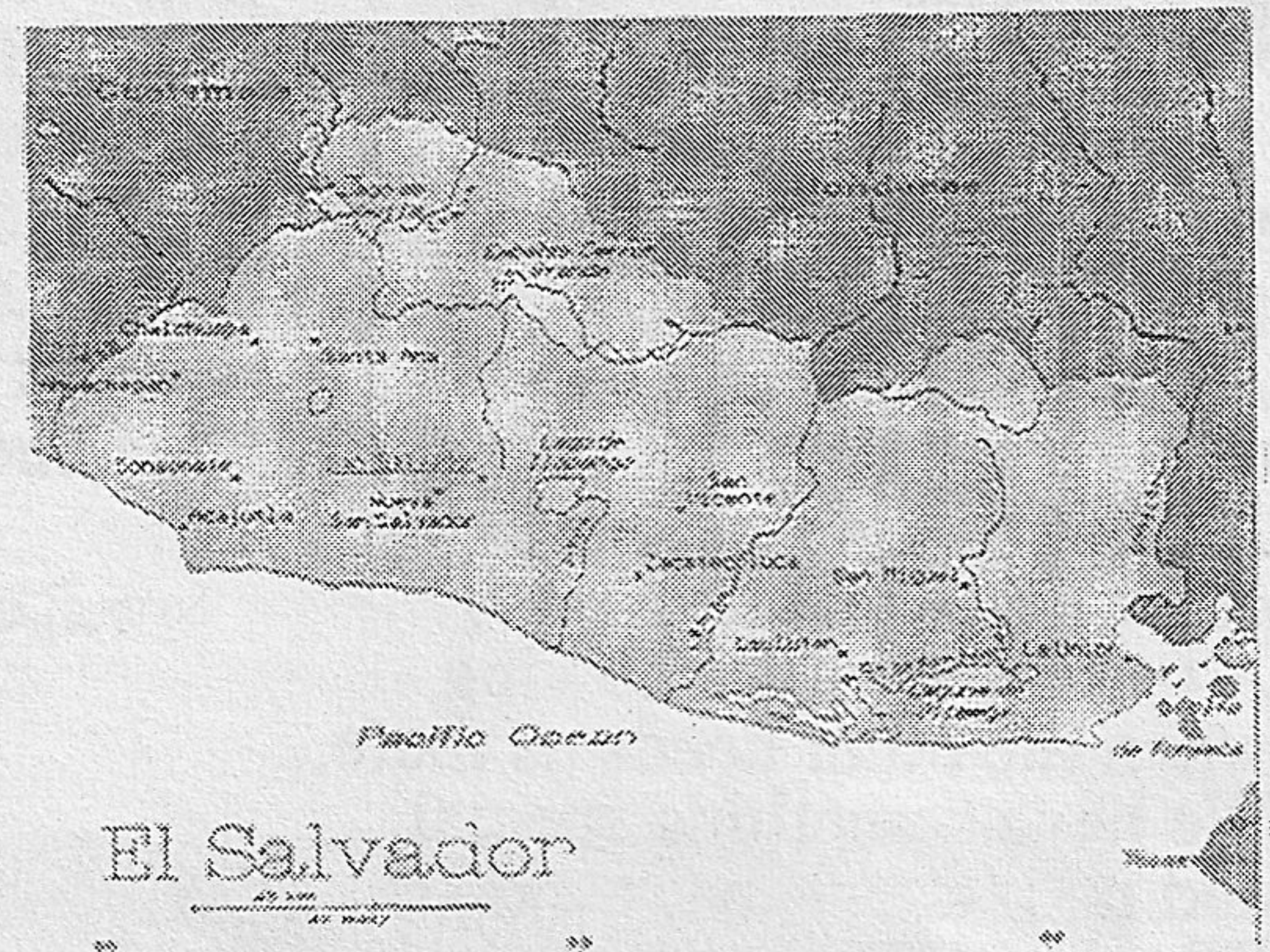
∞ *Sonia Flores* ∞



## Westview

Westview is on the west side  
Education is good at Westview  
Secondary school education is important at  
Westview  
Teachers are willing  
Variety of different cultures  
Incredible students  
Excellent education at Westview  
Westview is the place to be!

∞ *Yogeeta Nagindas* ∞



## Pleasant dream

One hundred to two hundred thousand pounds  
a year.  
That sounds good, doesn't it?  
Well that's what I earn.  
I live in London England.  
I have a Porche, a Jaguar and a B.M.W.,  
Parked in the driveway of my mansion.  
I am a brain surgeon.  
I have a lot of money but most of it goes to  
charity,  
And even when I give 20,000 pounds each  
year to charity,  
I still have about 60,000 pounds or more.  
I have already travelled all around the world.  
What more can be done with this money?  
I have already paid my taxes and I still have  
50,550 pounds left.  
What will I do with all of this money?  
"Ringggg"  
It's my alarm clock.  
Like every night, this was just a dream!

∞ *Saba Chaudry* ∞

## A friend

Finding a friend is not very hard  
But finding a true friend  
Who cares, understands  
And will be there when you need  
Is hard.

So if you had one  
Don't let it go  
'Cause finding a true friend  
Is not as easy as you think.

∞ *Thanh Nguyen* ∞

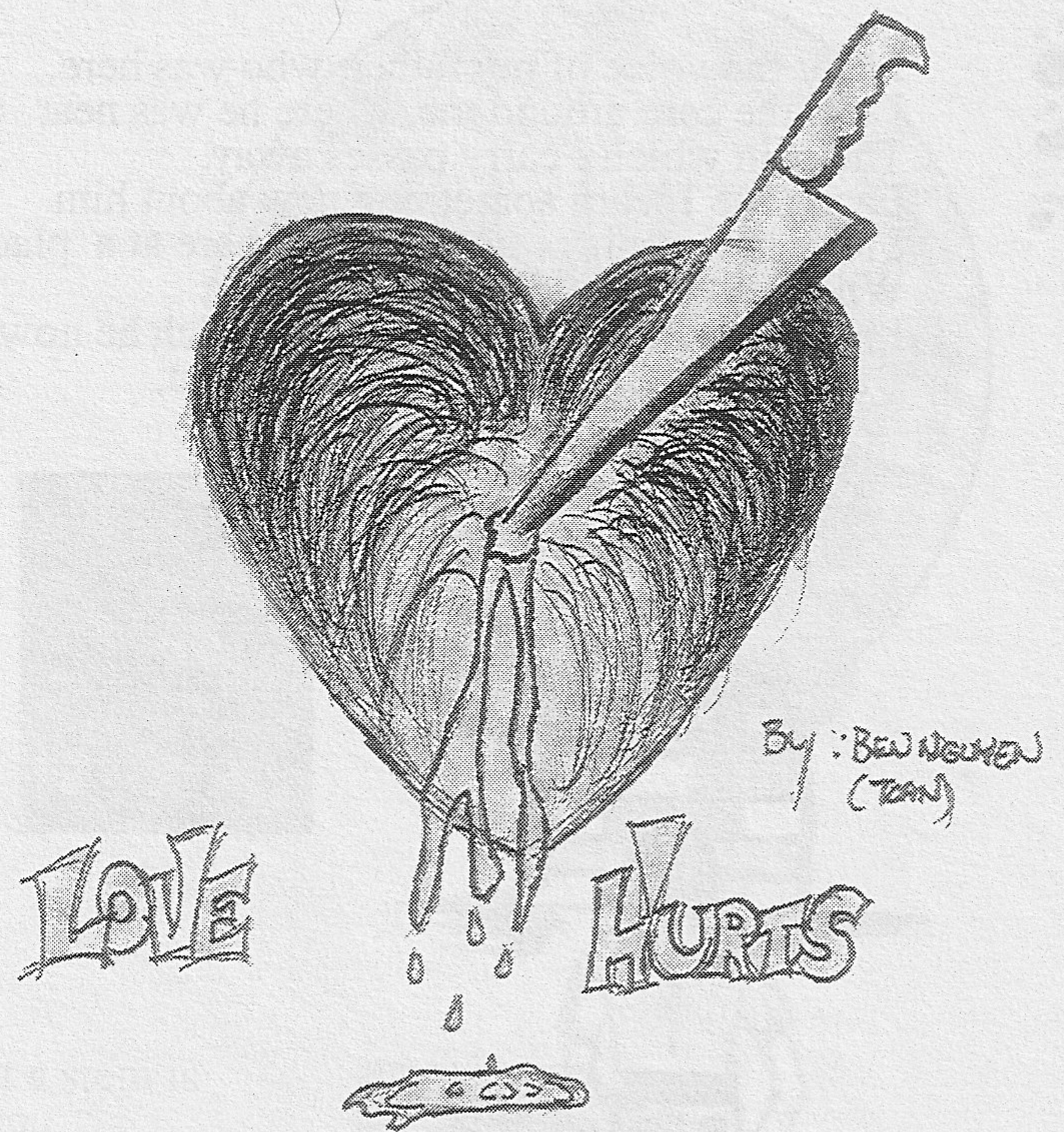




## R.I.P.

Death! The greatest time in life.  
The excitement.  
Place to choose.  
The person you've been longing to meet.  
Cannot be seen and cannot talk  
Lying around.  
Bitten and stepped on.  
The frightened face  
The slowest walk  
A room filled with redness  
Is it blood or is it love?  
Nowhere to go  
Just one direction.  
Gripped by hands of slimy red liquid  
No way out, nowhere to go again.  
Back to the gravestone.  
Hand digging out  
Skin peeling off  
Bone is all they've got!!!

∞ Shannan S C ∞



## Bad things about life

Needles hurt you  
Rivers are damp  
Acids burn you  
And drugs cause cramps  
Guns aren't lawful  
People can stop it  
Smoke smells awful  
Make sure you drop it  
Let's all pull together

∞ Aril D. Charran ∞

## I wanna

I WANNA have a girlfriend  
prettier than the setting sun  
I WANNA be so rich  
that I can't count my money  
I WANNA be strong  
so I could defeat Superman  
I WANNA be smart  
as Albert Einstein  
I WANNA be so fast  
that I can beat a bullet train  
I WANNA have many goals  
which I'll reach easily.



∞ Suresh Sriskandarajah ∞

## In my life

The most special day in my life  
Is meeting someone true.  
The most special thought I had was when I was  
with you.  
The only thing on my mind now is thinking of  
what to do tomorrow.  
What to do and where to go. Sometimes I like  
being alone  
Somewhere away from my friends - far away  
or somewhere at home.  
Sometimes I think I'm not seen when I'm too  
hurt and I'm too free.  
But most of all I feel like there's nothing left  
inside of me.  
I think I worry too much especially when I'm  
out of touch.  
I really worried that something bad would  
happen again.  
Most of the times I'm afraid of things that  
won't go away,  
Some things that would happen again day after  
day.

∞ Shannan Souk Chamroeun ∞



## The scheduled class trip

Our grade 8 class was going to visit Westview Centennial Secondary School and boy had I heard a lot of bad things it! Some of us did not want to go. But there were others who were actually really excited because they have brothers or sisters in that school.

On the bus to school I sat next to one of my friends in my class. Paul was the type of person who likes girls. After a while I said, "Hi." He said, "What's up?" Then I asked, "Are you looking forward to going on the class trip today?" He said, "Are you nuts? I'm scared half to death." Then I said, "Same here. We better stick with the teacher at all times." Then he said, "Yeah."

It was 9:05 now and we were in our class just on time. Of course we could not leave right away because there were always a few goofs who came in late. But why wait for them? They were probably hiding somewhere scared half to death.

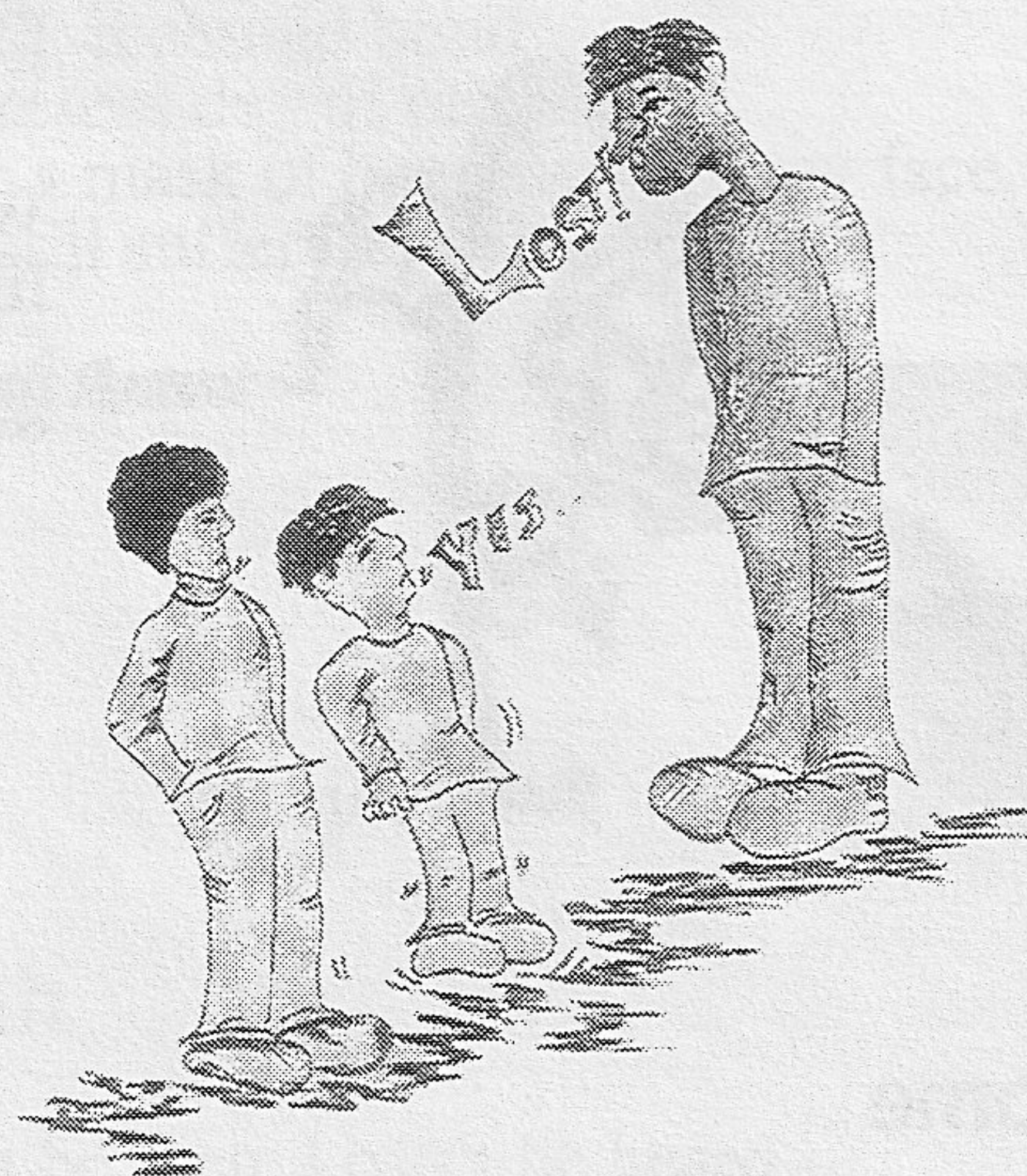
Eventually we arrived at Westview — the largest, and yet quietest school I had ever seen. We looked around and followed our homeroom teacher to the guidance office. The Vice Principal who was going to give us the tour of this humungous school.

At 1:30 p.m. we were still touring around. I was getting a little bored until my friend patted me on the back and showed me this really, really beautiful student in History class. Paul and I went near the door and stared at the girl until finally she turned her head and glanced back at us. We then turned back fast and ran towards our class. All of a sudden we stopped running because our class was nowhere in sight. We looked straight and back, left and right, and still we could not see one person we knew.

We looked around the entire school — well, probably not the entire school - for about thirty minutes and still could not find one person that we knew. It was 2:05 now and we were really scared because of all the horrible things we had heard about Westview. We looked in the cafeteria, in the gym, even in the change rooms and still could not see a sign of our class. When we were about to turn back to go look somewhere else, we suddenly

saw a monstrous shadow coming towards this corner. Now Paul and I were becoming even more frightened when suddenly a big person popped up in front of us. Paul and I were so scared that we started to scream out loud.

Then the big person said, "Calm down, calm down. I'm not going to hurt you. I'm just looking for two kids who are lost in this school." So we calmed down and then Paul said, "Yeah." The big guy said, "Well, are you two the kids who are lost?" Then Paul said, "Yeah" again. The big guy said, "Well, your teacher told me I should look for two kids who are lost in this school because your bus is leaving in five minutes and it cannot leave without you two."



I knew he was telling the truth. So we followed him to our bus and saw our class. We thanked the person who helped us. I knew this could not be a bad school because if it was, we would not have gotten any help from the big person.

So when it came to registration time, I knew which school I was going to choose.





## What if...



- students and teachers were equal
- there were no hall passes
- walkmen and cards were permitted in school
- students could go to the washroom at anytime
- there were no library cards
- there was freedom of speech
- class periods were shorter
- there was recess between classes
- lunch period was longer
- food was allowed in class
- there was no cruel punishment
- friends from other schools were allowed in Westview

If there were rules like these, would the school be better or worse?

What do you really think?

∞ Tae Eng ∞



## My school years

If you look at my past school years, they are not really like yours. Most of my school time was spent in India. I was born in India in May, 1980. I started school in India just like the other kids. I think I was 5 or 6 when I started my school career. I went to Junior Kindergarten first just like other kids. Like the others, I kept on going to school and passing with good marks. When I was having my vacation after passing grade 6, I got a chance to come to Canada.

I decided to come to Canada and I immigrated in June, 1993. I really liked the trip because when I was in the plane, I saw lots of neat things from thousands of feet high in the air.

After spending a few weeks in Toronto, I went to grade 7 at Oakdale Park Middle School. In the beginning, it was hard for me to match with the others. I stayed as an E.S.L student for 4 to 5 months, then I got back to the normal classes. I passed grade 7 with good marks. In grade 8, I was in normal classes and I was doing fine. I had good marks too and then that was the last year for middle school for me because I graduated from Oakdale Park Middle School.

It was time for me to go to high school so I chose to come to Westview. In grade 9 of the first semester, I had Science, Math, Phys. Ed, and French. One of my favourite subjects was Phys. Ed. I passed semester one and I also made it to the Honour Roll. In semester two of the first term, I had English, Social Science, Drama, and Electronics. One of my favourite subjects was Electronics. In the second term, which is now, I have English, Social Science, P.P.C and Keyboarding. In English we are assigned to make a ZINE. I was taking pictures of everybody in my class and downloading them into the computer. After that I have to write about my past school time and the present.

∞ Dhanish Patel ∞





## The Revenge



It was a very hot day. Me and a couple of other guys were just sitting around playing cards on my front porch. All of a sudden I heard my mom calling me. I told my friends to play for me and I went inside. My mom wanted me to go inside and get some groceries. I came out and told my friends that I had to go and get some groceries for my mom, and my friends decided that they would just wait for me.

I was half way to the store when I saw this long black car following me. I kept on walking towards the store with a lot of fear in me. I walked straight into the store and I saw the car parked right in front of the store, and they came out of the car. The minute I saw them come out of the car, I knew that it was the guy me and my friend beat up, but this time he wasn't alone, he was with two big guys that were wearing long trench coats. I started walking towards the back door and as soon as I looked back I saw them running after me with a gun. I got very scared and started running as fast as I could towards the back door. I opened the back door and started running into this small alley. I did not know my way around that good but I knew that if I stopped they would kill me. I just kept on running and ended up on this main street. It wasn't very hard for me to get back home. Just when I was a couple of houses away from the house I heard a gun shot and I thought that they had got me, I thought that my life was over but they had missed me. They had just shot the bullet in the air to scare me. I kept on running and as soon as I came near the house I told everybody to run inside the house and I ran after them. We stayed inside the house until we heard the police come. I told the police what had happened and we all went home. The next day the police came to my house and told me that they had arrested all those guys.

∞ *Khizhar Awan* ∞

## Living On The Edge



There once lived a king and a queen in the land of happiness. They had nothing to worry about. Everything they wanted, they got. In the house everything was within arms' reach. They had a maid who did all the house work and men who did the gardening. Two years after they were married they had two children, a son and a daughter. They named their daughter Camille and their son Cordelle.

The king and the queen were very strict on the children. They weren't allowed to play with other people's children, go to parties or be too intimate with anyone. Unfortunately the kids didn't like that. They wanted to go out to talk to people and have fun. Somewhere along the line the children got fed up with being stuck in the house all day.

Their school was putting a dance on one Tuesday night from 7:00 pm to midnight. Camille and Cordelle wanted to go but couldn't find an excuse to give their parents that night. The two children sneaked out through the back door while their parents were sleeping. When they arrived at the dance everyone was surprised to see them because they were not allowed to go anywhere. Camille and Cordelle felt left out because they had no one to dance with. Camille said she wanted to go home but Cordelle wanted to stay. There was a brother and sister who were in the same position as them. Cordelle and the boy went to look for a girl to dance with. Unfortunately all the girls were taken and they all wanted to go home until Cordelle came up with an idea. He said, "I'll dance with your sister and you dance with my sister." They all agreed. They all went along with Cordelle's idea. They all had a wonderful time. It was time for Camille and Cordelle to go home. On their way home they were talking about the wonderful time they had, but when they thought of their parents they were worried that the back door would not be open. However if it was, the prince and the princess would have a lot more fun.

∞ *Stacian Campbell* ∞



## Being rich, what is it?

Being rich means never having to ask for the price of something. That is so because (say I was the rich person) I would have so much money that I wouldn't bother asking for it. Living a rich life means you can have anything your mind wishes; whether it's a toy, a house, a car, a computer... The list of things goes on and on.

Being rich does have its advantages but money isn't everything to some people: money can't buy me love, friendship, talent, health, honesty and respect. So the next time you wish you were rich, consider your values.

∞ *Toan Nguyen* ∞



## Rich ! What is it?



To be rich is everyone in this world's dream. Rich people have a lot more advantages than people who are poor. When you have money, people say you can do anything you want. If you are rich, you have a whole lot of money, both in the bank and in your pocket.

Rich people can go shopping for clothes, if they want, everyday. When you are invited to a party, even though you have money, you just go because you have money, you just go buy something else to wear. Your parents will own a very big house and at least three cars. At sixteen, your mom or dad would get you the car of your dreams. Whenever you want something, without waiting a day you could get it. You would be identified as the upper class.

∞ *Nichole Gabbidon* ∞

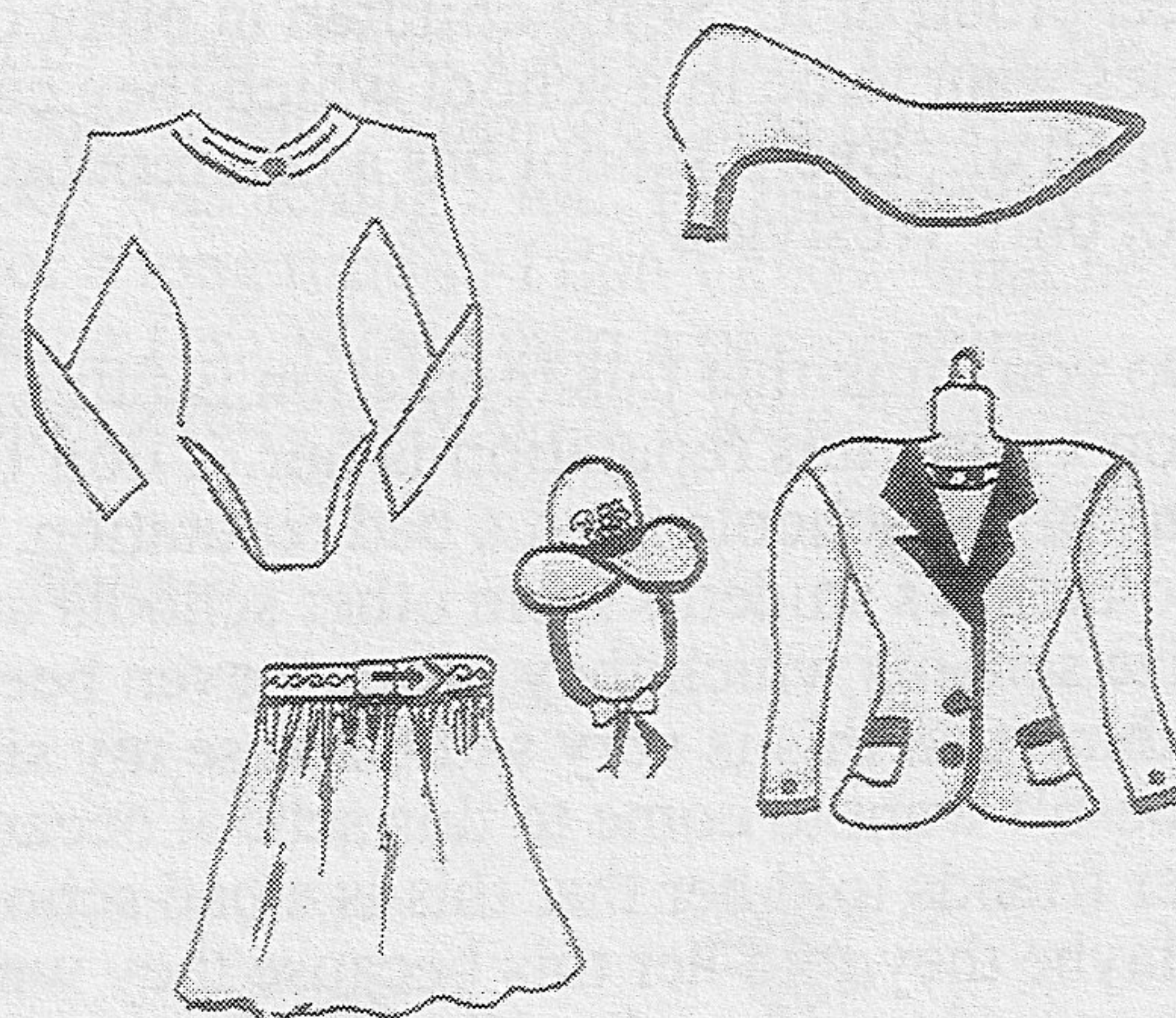
## Where to shop

In the 60's, people would not care about what they wore. The style was to have a pink T-shirt and dotted pants that were yellow. Girls would have to wear what their parents said to wear. Boys would wear bell bottom pants and shirts with big collars. They would even wear platform shoes.

These days, people wear whatever they want. When something comes out in the market, people would buy it for any price. A belt would cost \$25.00 these days and it wouldn't matter.

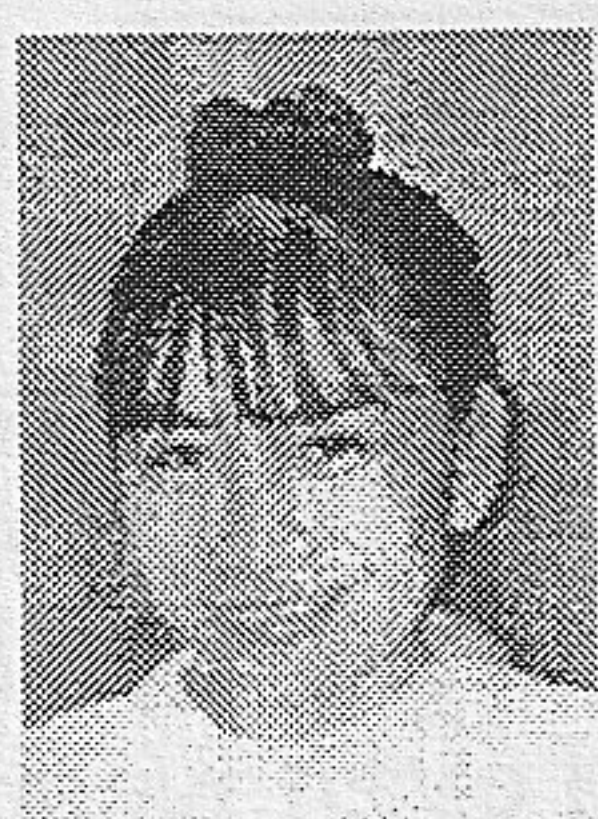
Some people want new styles, and they get here fast. In the wave of the future, I see people wearing baggy clothes and baggy tops. People shop at any mall with stores called International, Stitches and Le Chateau. People who want good clothes would go to these stores. People these days wear anything and it doesn't matter what they wear.

∞ *Vijay Suknandan* ∞





## Our school



There are several bad and good things about Westview. One bad thing about Westview is that in basketball tournaments we have to have the police checking up on us. I think that the best thing that I like about Westview is that our principal, Ms. Twohig, helps us on our path to success. Some students say that Westview doesn't have any dances. Well, yes they do, but they don't support them anyway. The students say that, but they don't even support the school dances so how can we have them?

Most of those students who complain about dances are the ones that don't even support them. We had the multicultural show and they didn't even support it. Most of the grade nines were the ones supporting the show. The school isn't made of only grade nines, it's also made of grade ten, eleven, twelve and OAC too. We can't make anything good happen if the students don't support what's happening in our school.

This doesn't have much to do with the principal. It has to be with the students. The principal and the rest of the staff are trying to make us have some fun while we are in school. Our principal has taught us to be proud of our school but some students don't seem to be proud of the school. This is a good school. I feel proud of it. Some children in other countries want to be in a school which they can be proud of. Every school has a bad reputation, not only Westview.

Do you think that this reputation is fair? I don't think this reputation is fair. I don't think any of the schools need a bad reputation. Sometimes students from other schools criticize schools which they haven't even been in. I think that this is very sad because my sister doesn't want to come to this school because her friends told her that this is a bad school. Maybe they told her this because they want her to go to the same school as them.

∞ Sonia Flores ∞

## Ticket to your dreams



"Bwoy, me always seh, if yu doan ave a ticket, yu doan ave a chance, so me mek certain me ave me lotto ticket," Paul insisted.

Paul usually buys his Peakapow, drop pan, race horse and attends all the bingo parties you could think of, though he rarely wins anything.

"All me say is dat dis is anada rip-off just like di ole scratch and win ginalship," Bald Head claimed. "But lotteries are found everywhere you go nowadays," Paul informed. "Well, me no care wha' a solewan' seh di ongle deestant lottery evah run a Jamaica was the National lottery," Bald Head insisted.

"Me no see where dat did fairer dan any odder one except sey di profits use to go to the Government," Paul said. "Aaah, dat's exactly what mi a talk bout," Bald Head responded. "When we used to 'ave di National Lottery if yu even lose it nuh worry too much becau yu know seh di money a go towards di budget an fi 'elp di country." "An yu see wha' appen now," Paul said. "A di same man dem who stop di National Lottery gone two new lottery a'ready, to rahtid y'kno man." "Dat a true still, but yu neva can tell," said Paul. "Sometimes a small man get a likkle break." Well mi wouldn't min' win a money fi mek me ole lady lay dung in a jaquizi too," said Bald Head. "Well all me win dat now is jus' a likkle 'ouse me wan pon di ills y'kno man," claimed Paul. "BWOY, me wan' a brand new 190 E Benz," said Bald Head. "Well dem seh is a ticketo your dreams, right?" asked Paul. "Well my dream is fi buil a 'helluva mansion an' rent out di room dem to pure woman an' yu know' seh mi no want no rent!" "A hope yu mek yu will befo' yu dweet though, cause di worl' kno seh yu na las' no time unda dem deh condition den."

∞ Stacian Campbell ∞





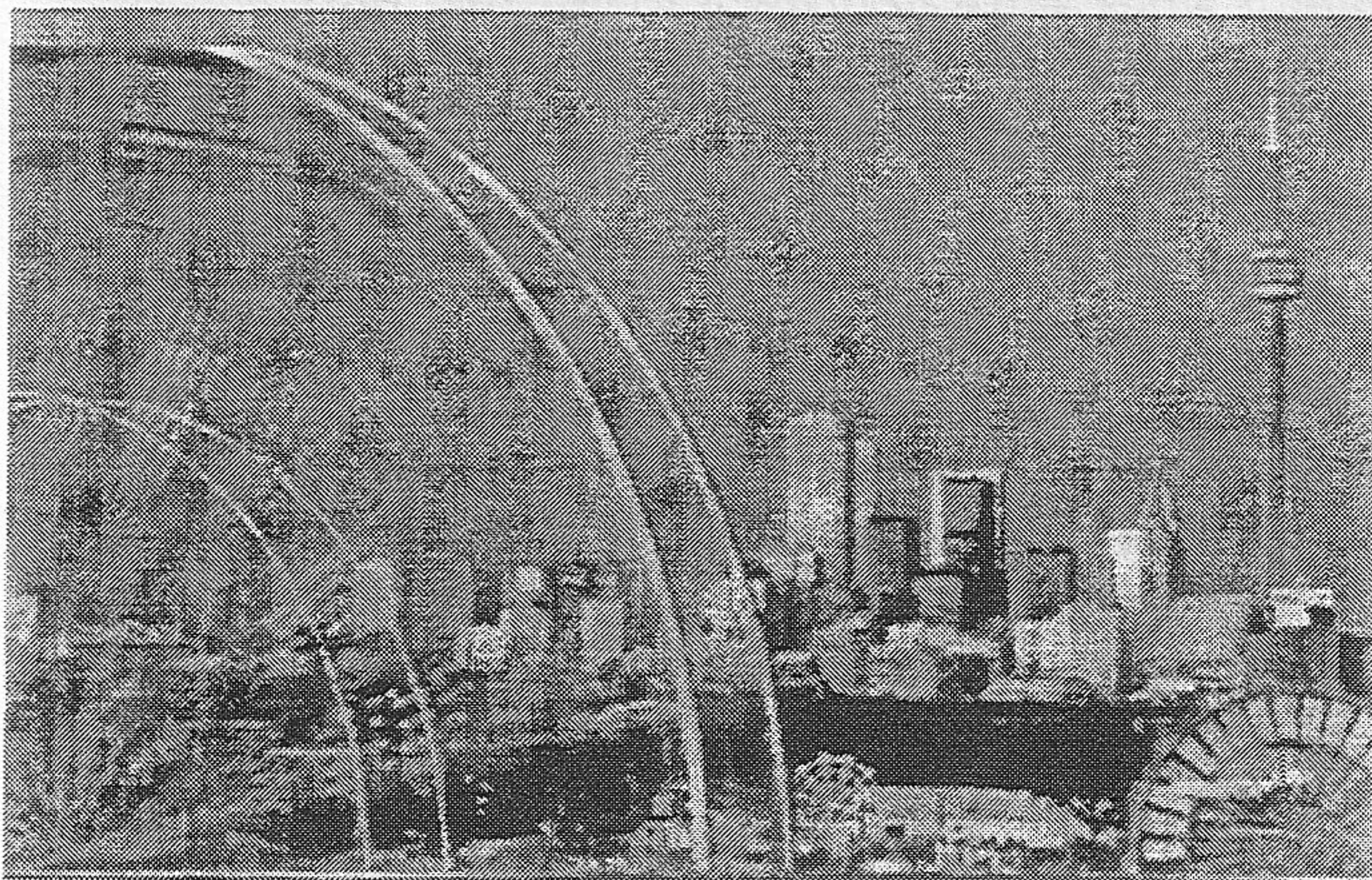
## My weekends through out the year



On my weekend, sometimes I stay home and other times I go out. I visit places such as Eaton Centre or Yorkdale Mall. Most of the times, I go to the arcade with my friends. We play street Fighter, Golden Axe, Virtual Racing and others. There are a variety of games that can be played, although you should be good at the game or else you'll just lose and lose again until you go bankrupt.

In the summer, theme parks like Paramount Canada's Wonderland, The Canadian National Exhibit (C.N.E.) and Ontario Place are opened. I enjoy going to these places because they have dangerous, thrilling rides and fascinating games. Unlike my friend "Sir" Toan, I went to Wonderland. (To all readers who have not yet read "My most memorable week-end" by Toan, I suggest you read it to better comprehend the last part of the sentence of this story.)

∞ *Tae Eng* ∞



## My best weekend



On my weekend I usually visit my friends in Brampton. Last weekend it was a different story because last weekend we went canping with my friend's family. There was a lake wherever we went. I think we had so much fun that we even forgot the lake's name. My friend Anny asked me the next day if we were going over to their house again. I said yes, because she wanted my mom to help her cook since her mon was going to be away for two weeks

On Sunday my family stayed at my friend's house in the morning. At two o'clock we went to church. Me and my friend Anny took care of the little children. We always take care of them when the pastor preaches. After church my family and some of our friends went to play soccer. My dad had a lot of fun. The girls didn't want to play soccer so they played baseball. Most of the adults played soccer, even our mothers. I didn't want to play soccer because I think it's a game where anyone could get hurt. About three boys were the only ones who wanted to play baseball.

After we played we went to my friend's house to have a drink, juice, and eat something. My friend from Brampton comes from Honduras. Sometimes I get bored when I go to their house but not this time. I had a lot of fun. I hope we do this more often. When we came home my dad's body was aching a lot. He hadn't played soccer for a long time so I don't know what he was waiting for. What could a person think when they haven't played for a long time?

∞ *Sonia Flores* ∞







## Guys



These days guys like a girl who is good looking and who has a nice figure. They don't really take the time to find out what a girl is all about. Don't get me wrong. I'm not feminist and I'm not putting down guys, I'm just being honest. A guy sees a girl at the mall or bus stop or wherever. She's pretty, so he then gives her his phone number.

I just have a few things to say to the girls out there. Stop. Stop dressing for guys. Stop putting on make-up for guys. Stop changing yourself for guys. If a guy just likes you for the way you look, then he is not privileged to have someone as special as you. One day the right guy will come along and you will know it when it happens. He will take the time to talk to you and get to know you, to like you for the person you are, not for the way you look. He will treat you with respect and courtesy and love you for the person you are.

I have one thing to say to some of the guys out there. If you are just looking for a girl to be with who is pretty, and has a nice body, and who looks good in your arms, then you're missing the whole point of what a relationship with a girl is and what being a girl is all about.

∞ *Nicolette Wright* ∞

## My Girl

This story is all about a girl who I want to see but I can't because she is an imaginary girl and she's in my dreams. I dream about her and she is a very nice person and in my dreams I really love seeing her.



We used to go to fun places and we used to go to the movies and have fun. All that time I always wanted to have a baby and one day it happened. We had a boy and I named him Tashan. everyone liked

him; he was always looking nice.

My girl is not too short and she is not too tall. She is just perfect. She has the eyes of an angel and she is really sexy. She has a very nice light colour and her hair is nice and long up to her shoulders.

I like smart girls and she is very smart. That's my girl!

∞ *Marvin Vernon* ∞

## Qualities in a girlfriend

Many of you guys look for a girl who appears sexy, beautiful and attractive. If you think that these are the only qualities you should be looking for in a girl, you are completely wrong. A girl that matches you must have other better, important qualities.

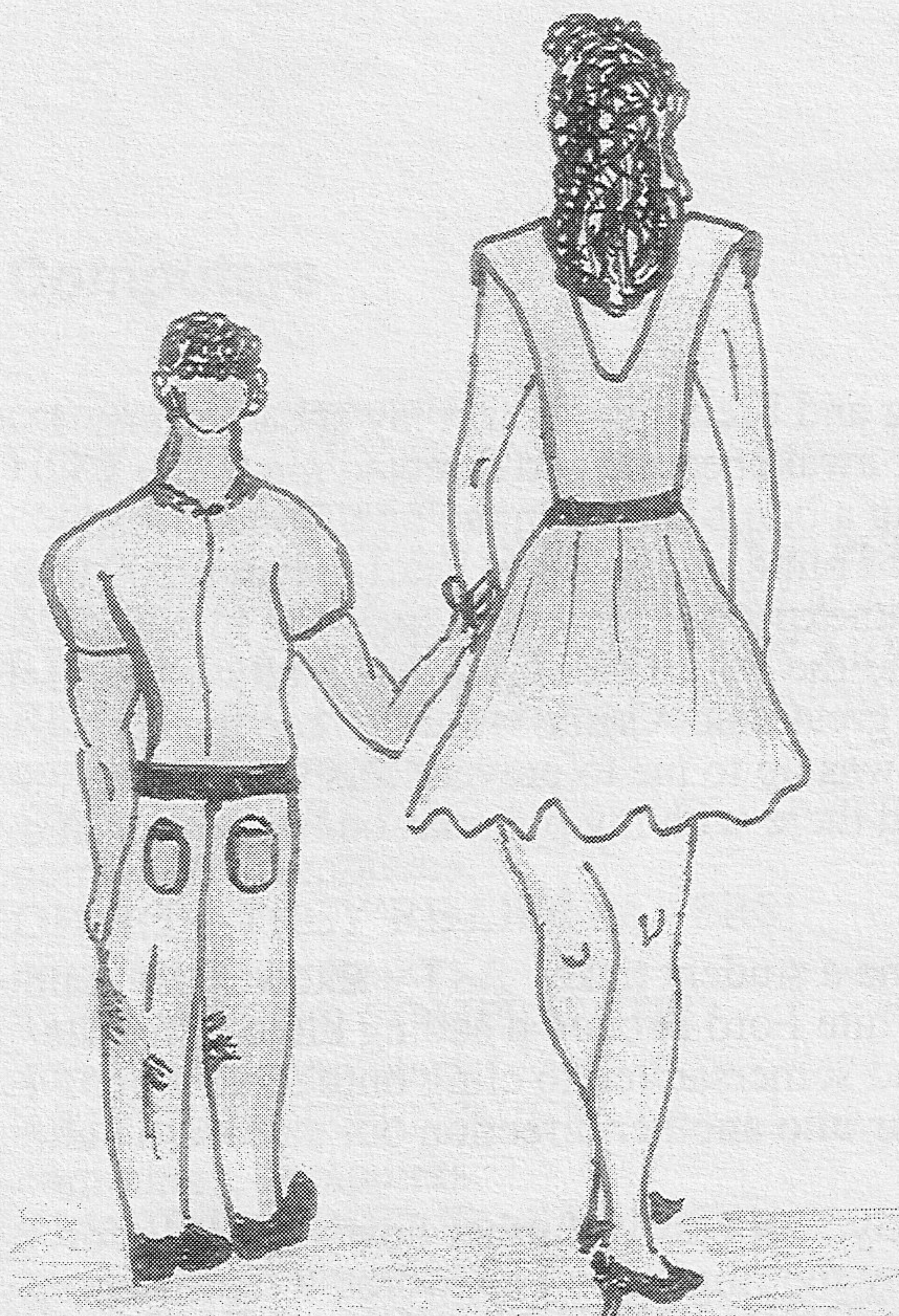
First of all, she should be deeply in love with you because you can't force a girl who doesn't admire you to fall in love with you. She must be able to stick with you for a long time, not breaking up after a few days. The girl must have a positive attitude which means using polite words when speaking to others. She has to know to respect others and also herself. The girl you pick must be calm and must encourage you to do certain correct, good things such as going to school, not swearing, sleeping early and much more. She should be sympathetic and maintain high self-esteem. Finally she must only like you, not another at the same time.

I hope this short message will help the men to choose the girl who matches them. I also wish that girls will read it and at least try to be the way a good girl must be.



∞ *Suresh Sriskandajah* ∞





## Singing is a song of joy



Thomas was on his way to school one day as happy as ever. He was so happy. He was singing on the road. People thought that he was crazy, but he didn't care. You see, Thomas thought if he sang wherever he went it would bring him happiness.

Poor little Thomas didn't really understand what his mother was saying to him. Thomas was a very sad boy. His mother told him, "Singing makes you happy". She also said, "You can sing when you feel sad." Thomas took the message wrong. On his way to school, Thomas was singing, thinking it was making him happy. He said, "It gives me confidence," Yet on his way to school he fell and people were laughing and saying, "Look at that crazy boy. He fell." Thomas was sad again, but he started to sing and then he was happy. Thomas shouted out, "I have confidence and I don't care what you want to say. You can laugh if you want, but I have confidence." Thomas went home and told his mom about it. His mother was proud of him, but she said it wasn't because he was singing. It was because he believed in himself.

∞ Dorothy Kidd ∞

## A love story (Tall Tale)



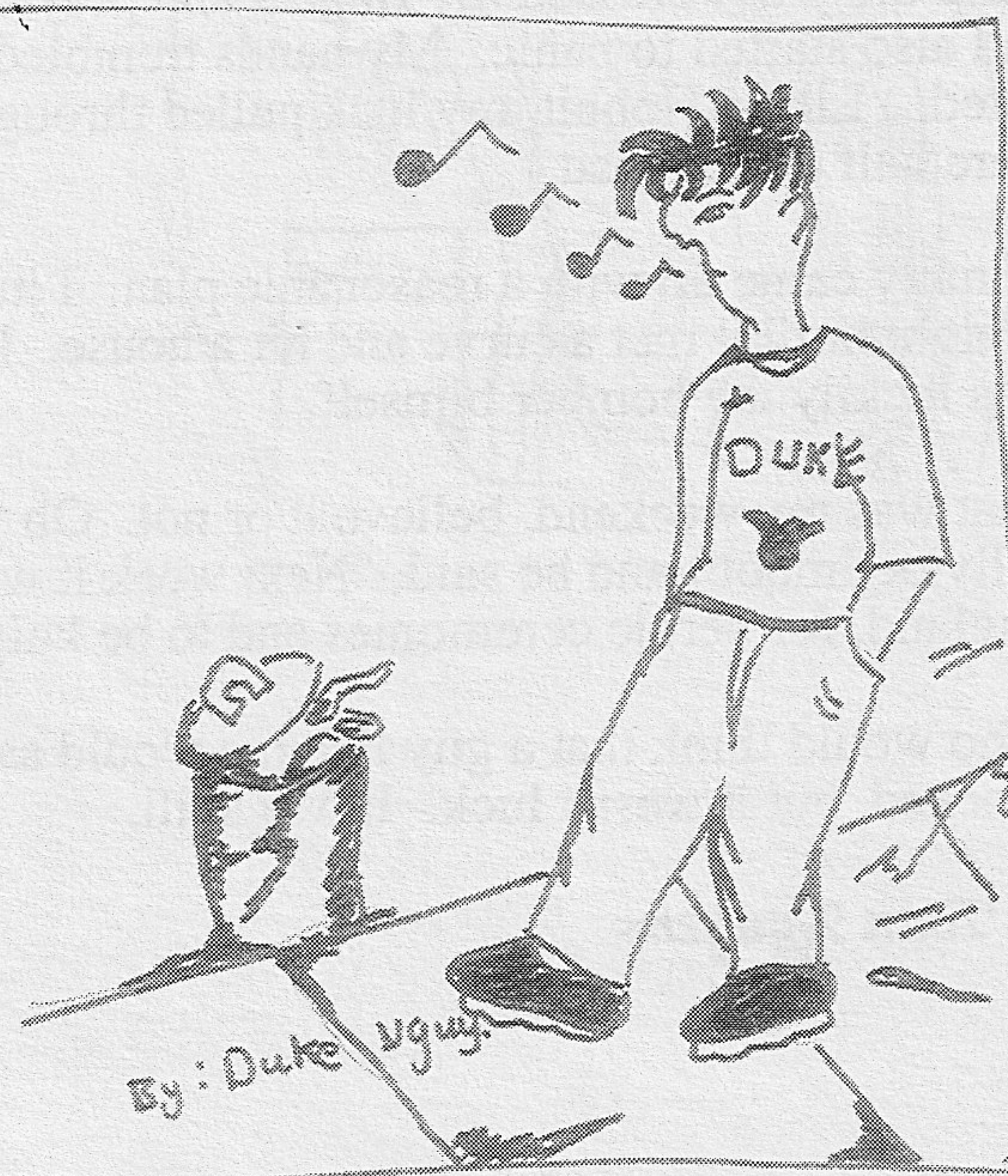
I am in love with a girl who is twice my age. She seems nice but sometimes she seems afraid to face the world. She does not know that I am in love with her. Sometimes when I try to tell her that I'm in love with her, she walks away.

My sugar dumpling is twenty-four years old. She lives in a beautiful house in Brampton, Ontario. She works in Malton Runners Shoe Store and she earns \$250 per week. Every weekend after she gets paid she takes me dancing at Robina Banquet Hall.

She doesn't know how much I love her. When I am brave enough, I will tell her how much I love her. My sugar dumpling and I are in love, but sometimes we do not know how to show it. I would like to say, "My sugar dumpling! This is the love of your life speaking. What is the matter? How come you are not speaking that much? I had a dream last night and I want to talk to you about something."

And what will happen next? Wait and find out what happens....

∞ Omar Baylis ∞







## My most memorable weekend



The weekend was now patiently awaiting and I felt a heroic act lay ahead of me. I woke up with a sudden start. My mother awakened me and directed me to the TV. A reporter from Channel 22 was reporting a bomb threat on the new Police Headquarters. Suddenly my eyes had a burst of blinding light; my heart pumped 200,000 litres of blood in that second alone. An unexpected voice was speaking to me. It turned out he had summoned me to defend the Police Headquarters at all costs and if I didn't help, the future of the city was at great risk. Crime would sweep the city at an alarming rate in the near future and it was up to me to prevent this whole thing.

Then the voice disappeared like a police siren, and I stood there with my pyjamas on backwards and totally confused.

I rushed down to police headquarters by bus which cost me a student ticket. As I walked to the main entrance I stopped in my tracks. Behind me I noticed a White Ford Bronco heading directly for the station. I reacted instantly and I ran like a bolt of light and somersaulted to cling onto the Bronco. I took off the steering wheel so I immediately swung the car into another direction but that wasn't all.

A cellular phone on the back seat started to ring impatiently. As I drove further down the 401 (for the record, I didn't have a driver's license) I got annoyed by the ringing so I answered it. "Listen up little brat, you screwed up all my plans so you will pay the price. I have planted a pipe bomb on the car that would explode if contact is made, but it also blows up if it travels at any speed under 50 miles per hour. Here's the catch. You won't be able to refill the gas tank. Good luck, you'll need it..." and he continued laughing.

As I released the phone and placed it gently on the front seat I realized I was approaching one of those bridges which open up for boats to go through not very far ahead. Luckily the bridge just closed in the nick of time and therefore allowed me to pass unharmed. In the distance there was what seemed a huge collision of some sort that blocked the entire 401. I cautiously turned in another direction but because it wasn't often used I knew little about it and what lay ahead.

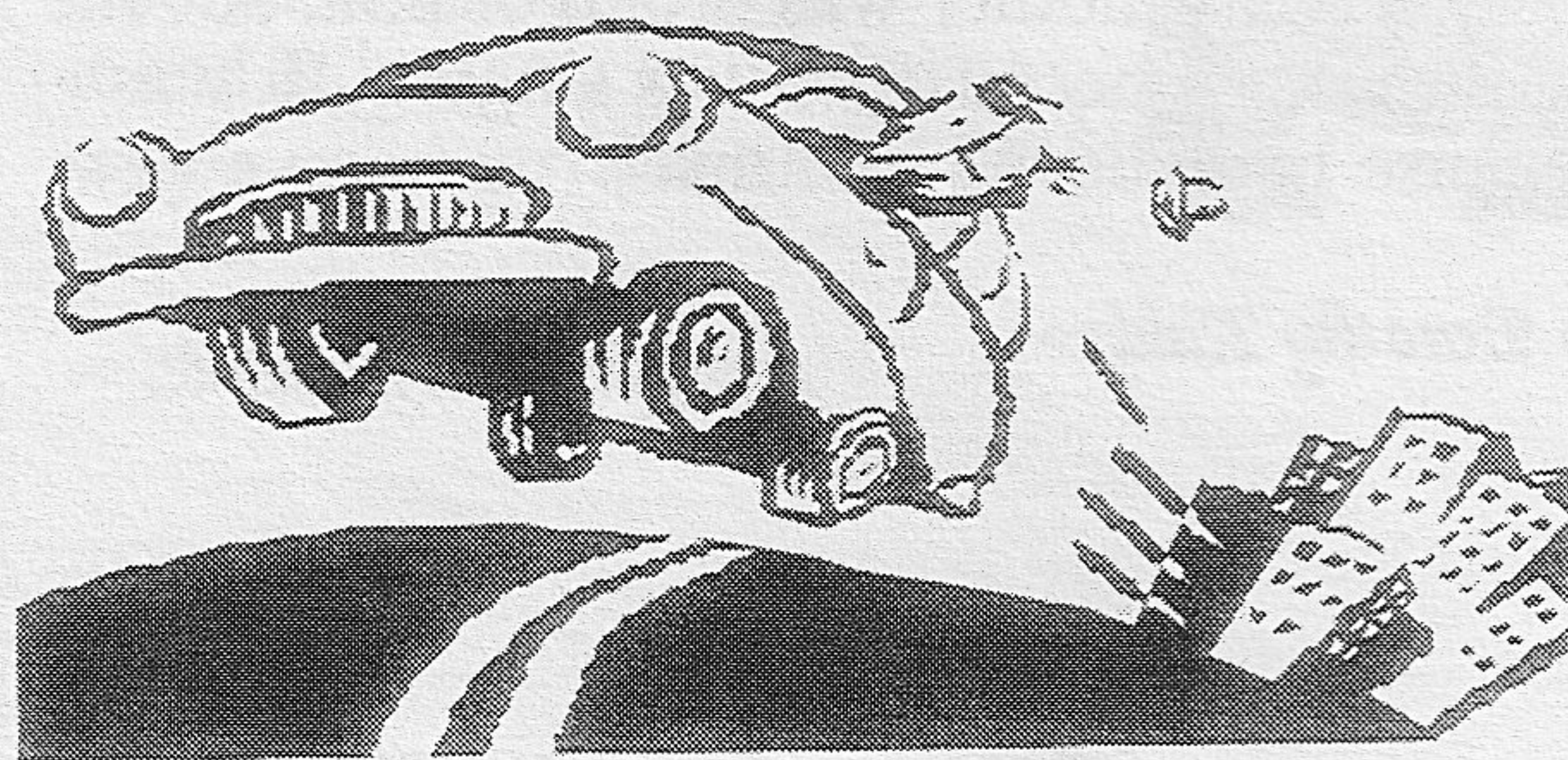
There in front of me was a very sharp turn and at the end of it was a pit. Just my luck -- the road was cut off for replacement and my guess was it was about 50 metres long before there was more road to drive on. I had to somehow make the turn and at the same time build up enough speed to jump the pit. I crossed my fingers and prayed for a miracle. As I got closer I started to feel nervous and also started to panic. My hands trembled more and more. (Visualize someone being electrocuted.) Like a Hobbit, my luck pulled through and I made it just by a metre or so. (The rear tires were half on the road.)

I finally came up with a reasonable plan. I jumped into Lake Ontario and the car kept on going straight until it met a curve and hit a house. It exploded, causing a huge cloud of smoke. The victim was luckily the bomber himself.

That was my weekend, believe it or not. Oh yeah, I have received a call from an officer (his name was Billyjoejimbob) and he said, "Next week it will be my honourable duty to bring you to London, England, for heroic ceremonies and to be knighted by the Queen herself and to become Sir Toan."

Who would think that a guy like me would save North America from crime expansion? I'm still shocked, but it wasn't luck. It was skill.

∞ *Toan Nguyen* ∞

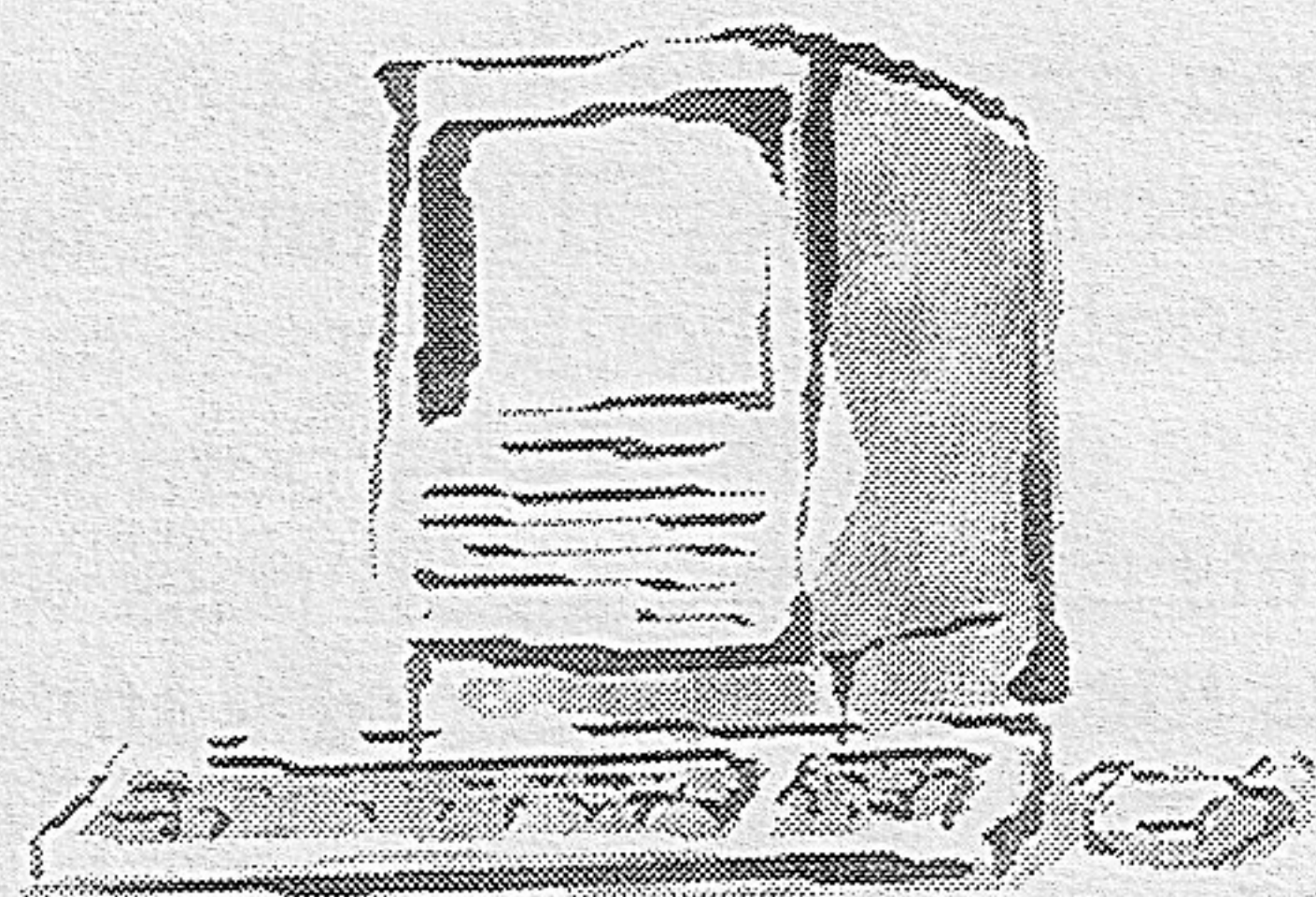




## Computers

computers, computers,  
HOW ARE THEY FUNNY.  
computers, computers,  
THEY ARE JUST AS DUMB AS THE PER-  
SON WHO USES THEM (PROBABLY A  
LITTLE SMARTER). COMPUTERS ARE  
REPLACING EVERYTHING WE KNOW.  
computers, computers,  
OH WHAT DREAD.  
computers, computers,  
OH HOW THEY'RE LIFE SAVERS!  
computers, computers,  
THEY ARE SO COMPLICATED  
computers, computers,  
ARE THEY EXPENSIVE?  
computers, computers,  
I'LL BE DAMNED TO SAY NO!!!  
computers, computers,  
OH BOY DO I HOPE I GET MY HOME  
WORK DONE & I HOPE IT'S WITH MY  
COMPUTER TOO (NOT)!!  
computers, computers,  
ENHANCE YOUR WORK.  
computers, computers,  
DO THIS, DO THAT.  
computers, computers,  
NOW YOU MAKE A SLAVE OF ME.  
computers, computers,  
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN.  
computers, computers,  
LET'S PLAY A VIDEOGAME.  
computers, computers,  
LET'S FACE IT, YOU GOT US HOOKED.  
computers, computers,  
THIS IS MY POEM. BY THE COMPUTER  
MAN NAMED SHAUN!!!!

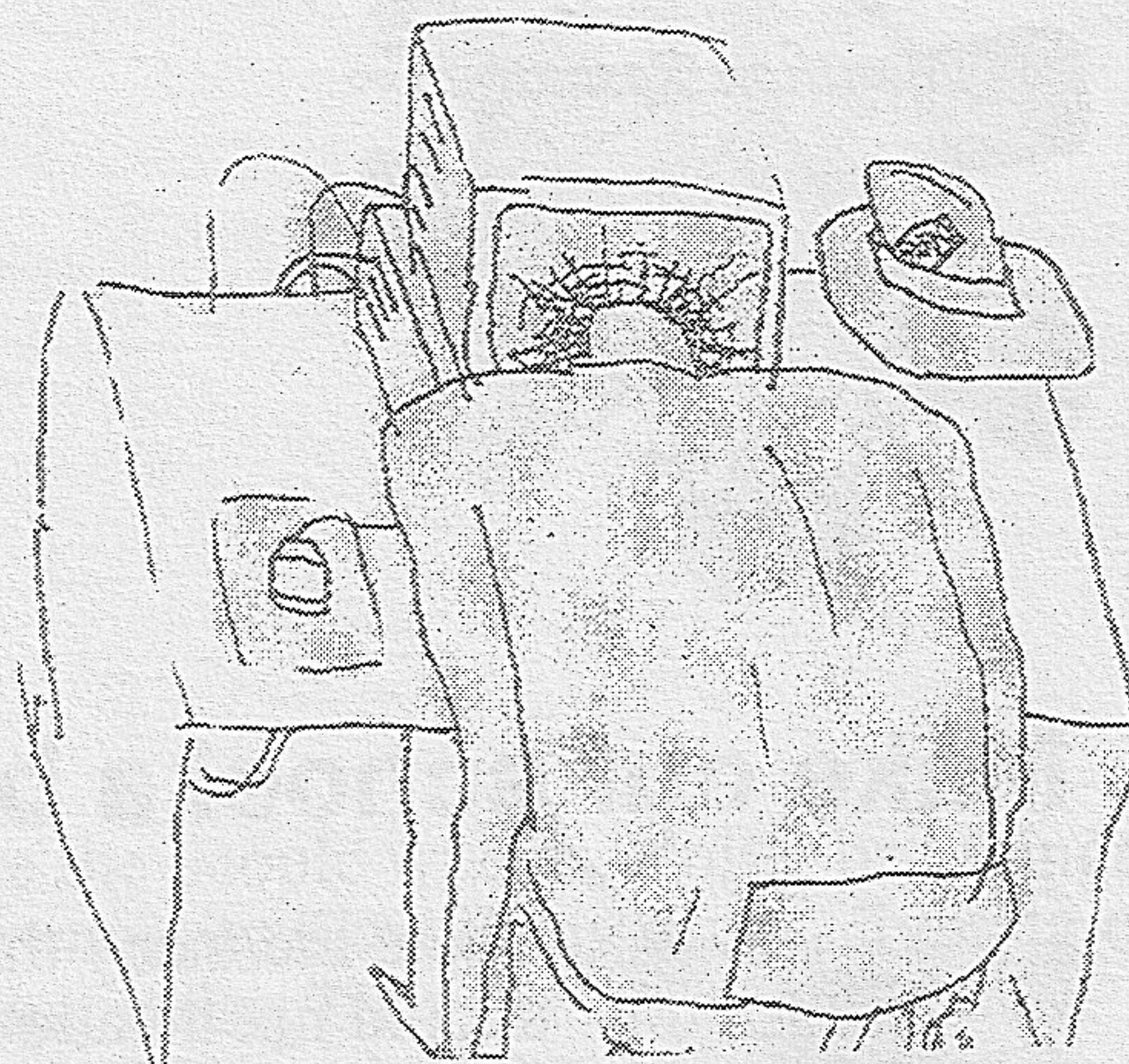
∞ *Shaun Best* ∞



## Who am I?

What's up ? My name is Randy Ruiz. I'm in grade nine at Westview Centennial Secondary School. I was born in Ecuador. I don't remember much because I came when I was very small. I was only three year old. I started school in Shoreham P. S. My seven years there were fun. Then I went on to Brookview. My three years there were so much fun. I played volleyball in grade six, seven and eight. It was exciting. Now that I'm in high school this is where my life begins. I hope to become a computer technician because I think our lives are going to revolve around computers. I hope I can graduate from university and become a technician to help others succeed in life.

∞ *Randy Ruiz* ∞





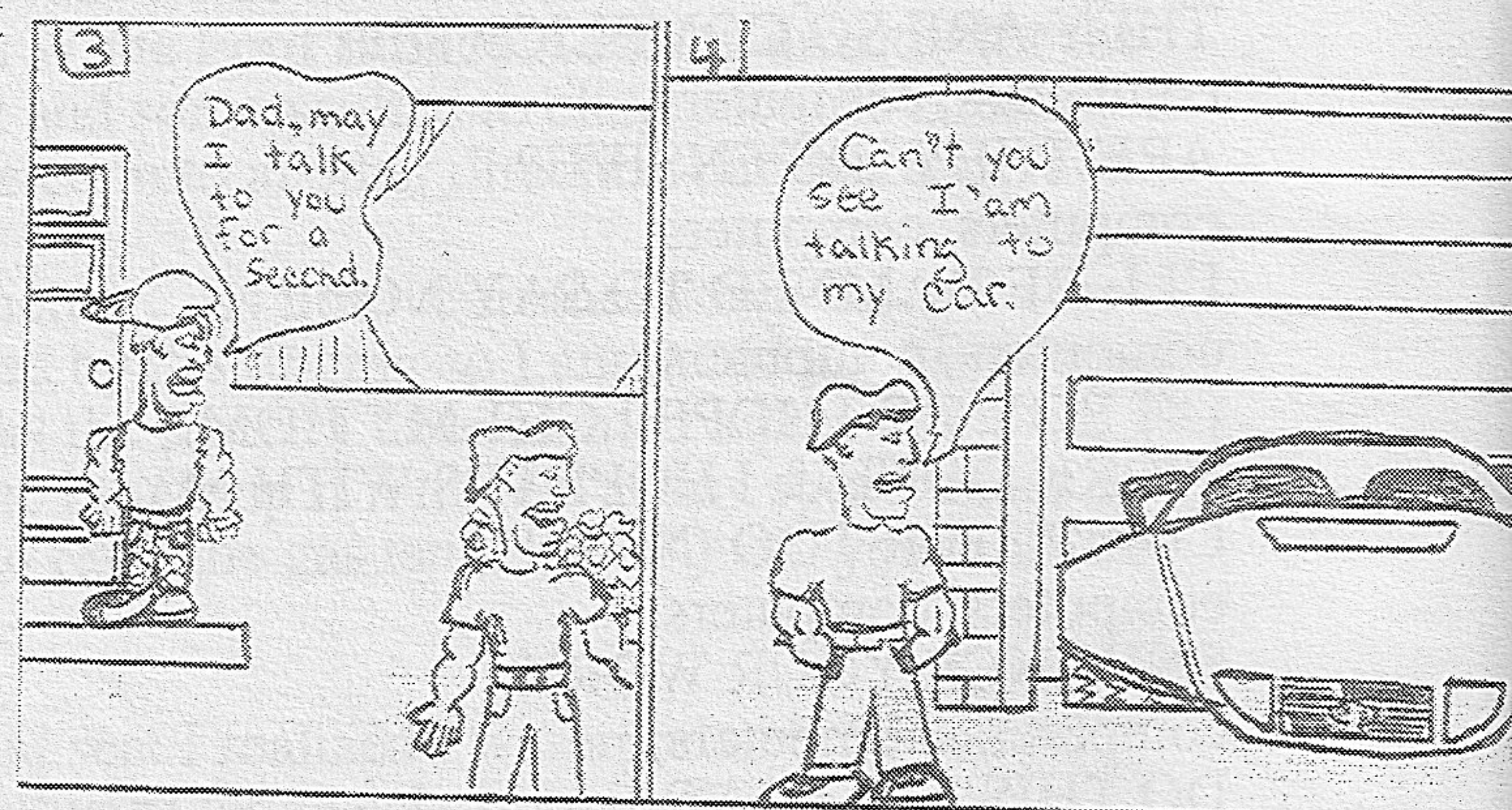
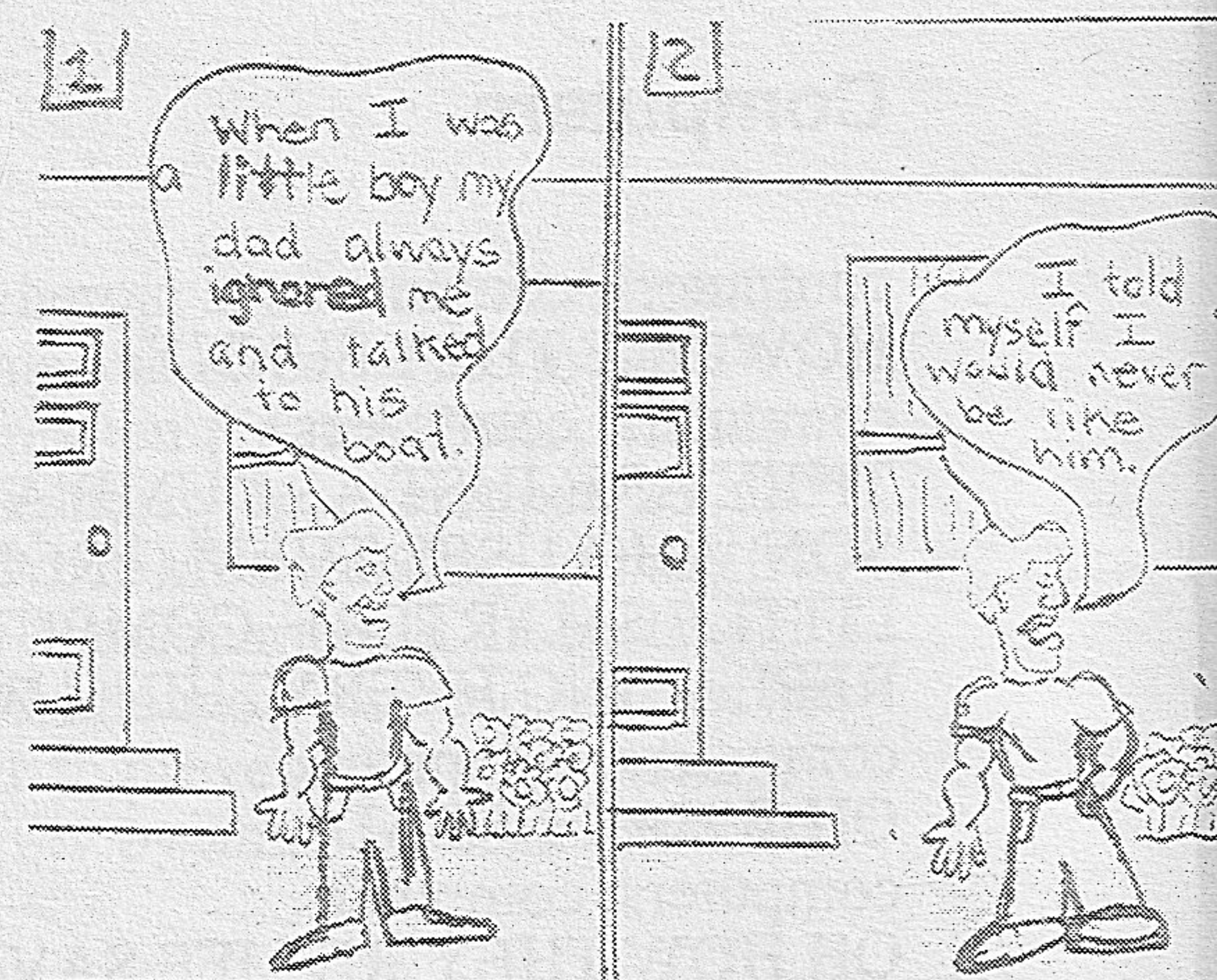


## How we can make Westview a better school



I have so many suggestions about making Westview a better school. Right now so many schools are in trouble because some schools don't have rules and students behave badly. In Westview, we have rules and Mrs. Twohig talked to us about these rules. She also introduced some new rules. If we follow these rules, our school is going to be better. However, I have some other rules to talk about. First, we have to make our students respectful with each other because so many students bug others who are new to Canada and they make them crazy. We cannot say all the mistakes are made by students. The teachers have to stop swearing first and should not be rude with students. Also, many students smoke around the school and they make this school look bad because if any other people saw this happen, they would think bad about our school. Finally, we should not let any strangers in because they disturb classes. If we do these things, Westview will be a better school and in fact, I think the best school in North York.

∞ *Ajanthan Rasanthan* ∞



## Make our school a better place



There are many things that we can do to make our school a better place. Visitors should not be allowed in school because they'll disturb classes and cause troubles. If you find any visitors in our school, you should report to the office. Teachers should lock the doors when they're out of the classroom so that strangers cannot come in and steal things. Students must have a hall pass when they're out of the classroom because it will help us identify our school's students from strangers. Students should not be allowed to go to their lockers during classes because they might lie and go somewhere else. Teachers should help the students who need help because there are some students who need help. When you bring these things to action you will see a new change in Westview.

∞ *Theepa Thayalakulasingham* ∞



# Racism



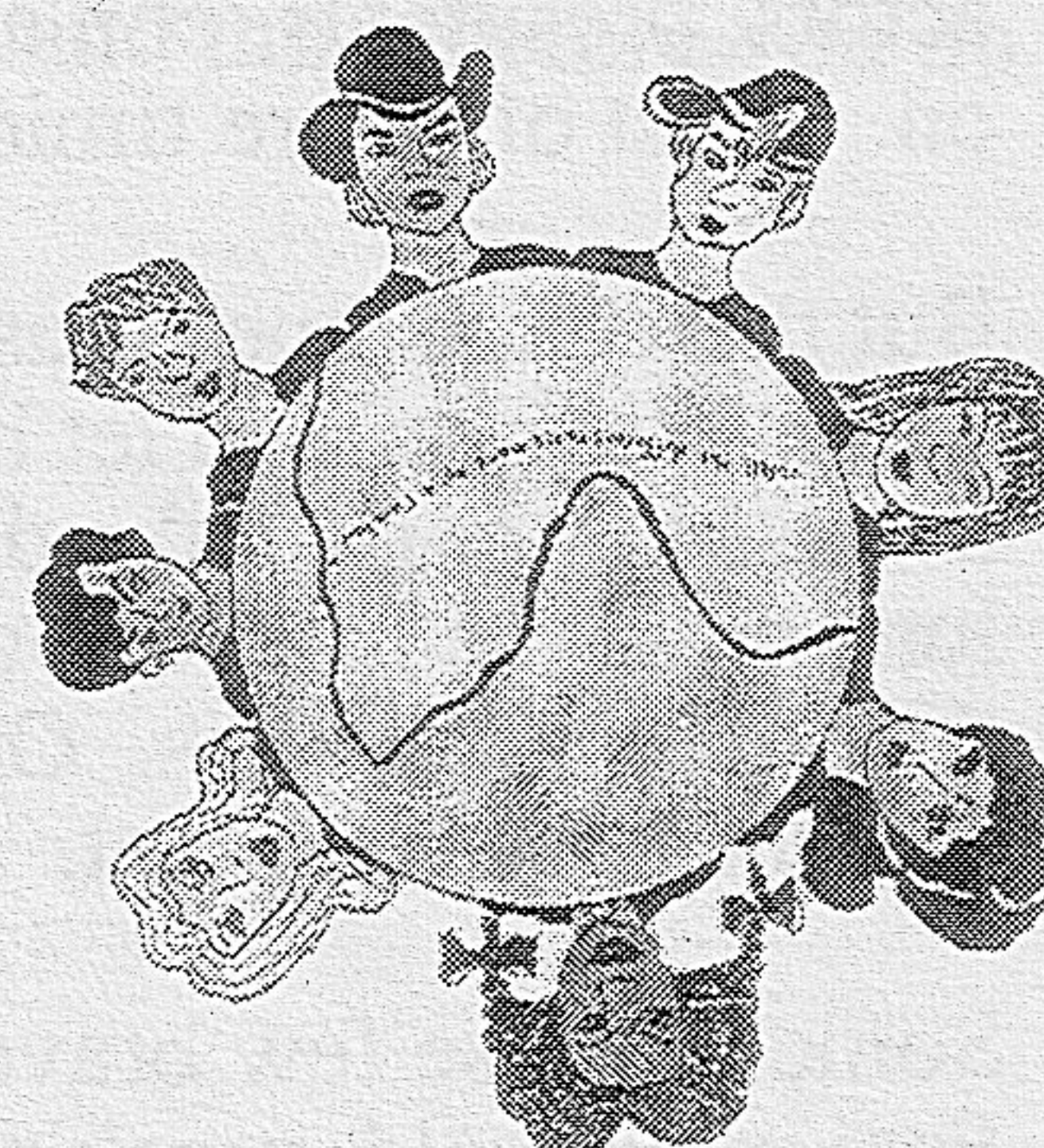
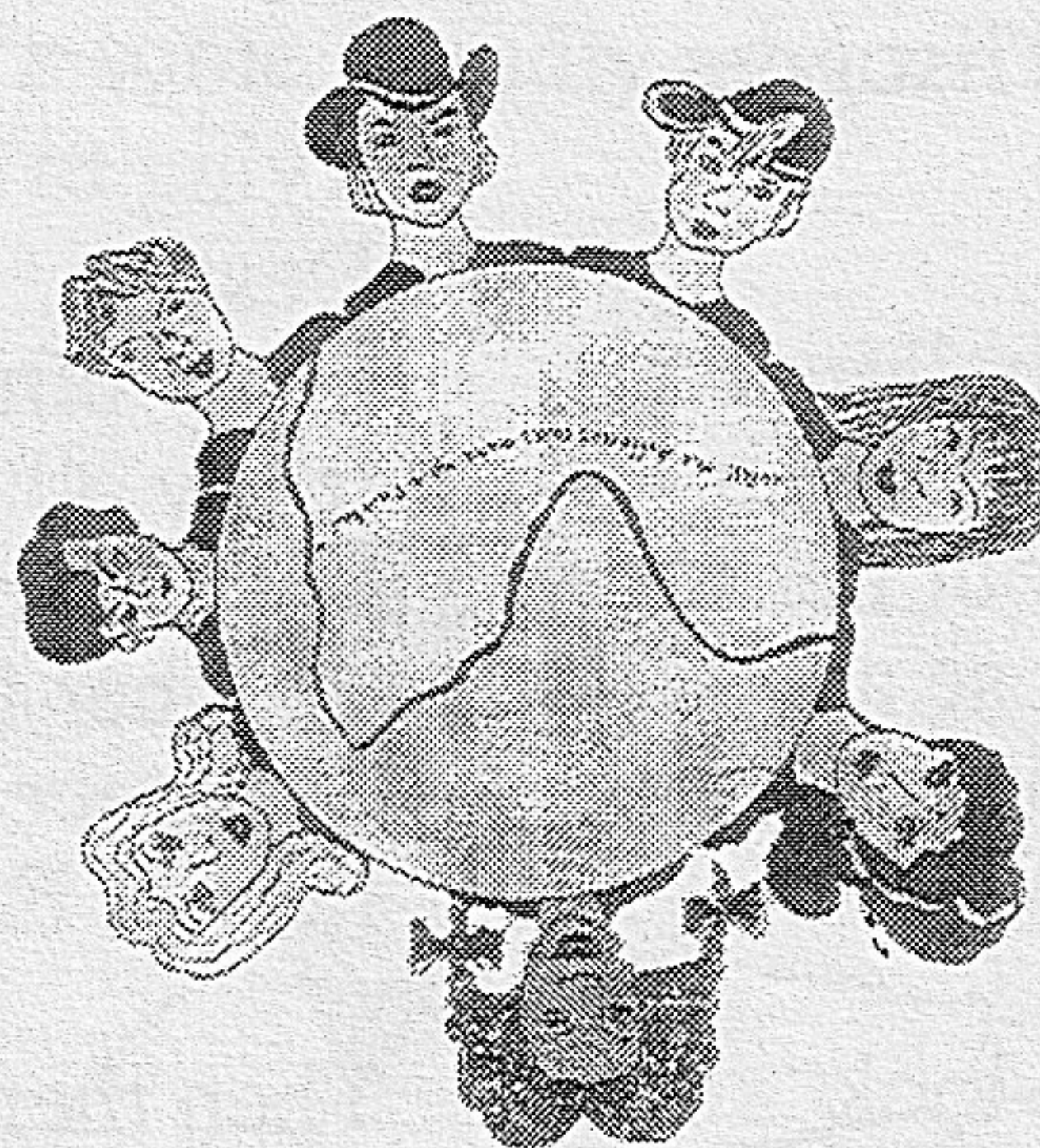
Why are people so racist even though it's cruel? I'm not trying to prove that our school is racist or anything. But you've got to admit that you've heard a few racist remarks while walking down the hall. You just might think it's mean when someone shouts a racist remark at you. This doesn't have to be that person's fault because some people tend to get along with what they call "their kind". For example when you are sitting in the cafe, you rarely see more than two different races eating lunch together. This could be for many other reasons.

It is not only the students that make our world so cruel, sometimes it could be the teachers too. A friend of mine came to me with a racial situation. A teacher helped "her kind" of students while doing a presentation but when it came to other students she just picked on them (she might have done that because she wanted them to learn) and gave bad marks. My friend in this case started to cry. She worked hard but didn't receive the attention she deserved! She didn't take any action on this because she didn't want to make her peers feel they didn't deserve the mark they received!

We have heard of heroes who peacefully fought for their beliefs, like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Mahatma Ghandi etc. I especially admire Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's speech, "I have a dream". The part I like from it is when he has a dream that one day his own children would live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but the content of their character.

To me it is not what 's on the outside that matters, it's the inside! It's like the saying goes, "You can't judge a book by it's cover." It's all the races that make this world beautiful. All the different races make up a rainbow and at the end of that rainbow, our world isn't black and white only.

∞ Nithya Ratnam ∞



## How I feel about being at school

I feel great about being in school. All the people who study with me in this school are very nice and friendly to each other.

Coming to school makes me forget all my problems at home or with anyone else. I get an education as well. Also I meet and talk to people from every country of the world. School is the best place to get most of the things you need in order to get ready for a peaceful life.

In school we don't have hard work like washing dishes or cooking which I do at home. School educates us and teaches us anti-racism. There are a lot of people who don't like school.

Those are the people who are doing bad things in the community like selling drugs, fighting or even raping girls. They are doing it, because they are not educated. If they were, then they would know what will happen to someone after they had done something like that. So, school is not only the place which makes us feel great, but it also teaches us to have a good attitude, and to live nicely in the future.

∞ Thusha Kanagaratnam ∞





## Fate

Fate is something that all of us at one time or another have thought about. Fate controls our lives. Fate is the lady who determines where we go, what we do, who we do it with. Fate.

Sometimes we meet people we never thought we'd see again or we find someone whom we have always dreamed of finding. That's Fate at work. Fate writes our future. She is the one who decides who we become. No matter how hard the decisions have been for us to make, be sure that the final answer will have already been written in Fate's book. It's not really a book. It's an everlasting scroll in which the destiny of every person and thing is foretold.

All of us live by her rules. The timid ones just live and let whatever Fate has in store for them happen. They live their lives in a useless daze, with Fate in complete control. They go through all of their lives thinking how hard it was for them to make their difficult decisions and how successfully they have lived their lives. They end up being lawyers, doctors, actors, presidents, con artists, and the list goes on. Most of us are timid.

But there are some of us who try to challenge Fate. We try not to let her take control of our lives. We try to make decisions without her lurking in the back of our minds. Those are the courageous ones. Or maybe it's only Fate that they're doing that.

Some of those few brave ones dare to look Fate in her cold, mocking eyes. They dare to take her unending scroll and make changes. At their petite efforts Fate, laughs and let them have what they desire. Throughout their quest to get to their goal she will sit back with a slight smile on her face. They will claim that they have defeated her and she has no choice but to smile upon them.

But they have never been so wrong. When they have their prize, she will make it go sour. She will taunt them. She will torment them. Fate's smile is always a cruel one, one that is there to teach those who dare defy her a lesson.

Fate is known by different names to different people. To a person to whom she is kind she is known as Luck. Someone who has given up



trying to comprehend of fight her calls her Destiny. Others call her Fortune, Chance, and many other names in many other languages in many other times. And she is all of them. Those whom she has defeated curse her. But then her followers are blinded in their useless existence-even those of us who have seen the face of Fate and have lived to tell the tale.

Then there are those of us who dream. Not many, but enough. We dream of inconceivable feats. We dream of things not written on the scroll. We dream of outwitting Fate. But that's all they are-dreams. The dreamers are the ones who ask the impossible questions and try to dream up the answers. They ask philosophical questions. What is our purpose? Why do we live? What's out there? And they challenge Fate to give them the answers. Fate ignores them because Fate herself doesn't know the answer. Maybe Fate's destiny is also written on some scroll. Maybe Fate herself has the same questions. Or maybe Fate knows the answers and has that mocking smile of hers on her face right now as we all blindly drift along in our darkness.

∞ Sharmila Shewprasad ∞



## Harassment: something we need to change



This year has been a pretty good year for me. I can't believe that the school year has almost ended. However as I look back on the year I have a lot to say about guys who think it's cool to harass girls.

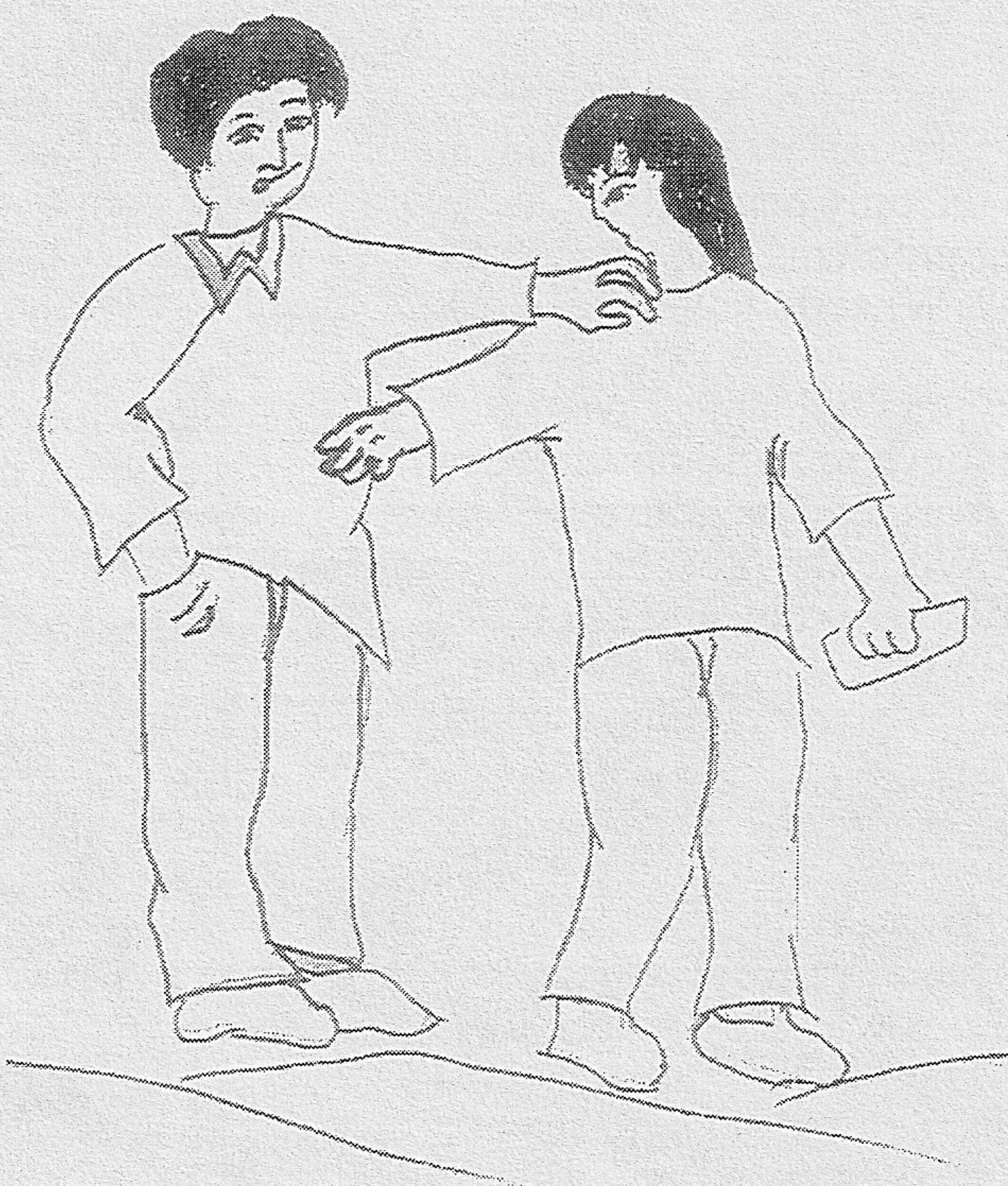
When I came to Westview I knew that there would be guys who would be ignorant. I did not expect them to be as I found them to be. I always knew that maybe once in a while there would be a guy who might make a rude comment here and there. But I remember sometime in December when I was walking down the hallway, there was a guy behind me, I didn't know him. He started putting his arm around me and touching my hair for no reason at all. At first I didn't understand what the guy was doing and why he was doing it. When I realised what the guy was doing I got really upset, but it was too late, because he was already gone. There was another case with my friend where a guy followed her into a washroom and just sat there and watched her. My friend just walked out.

The point I'm trying to make is why do guys think harassing a girl is the only way to get girls' attention. I'm not talking about all guys, but most guys think that making rude comments may get girls' attention, but really I think it just makes the girl uncomfortable and mad.

Over the years, teachers have told me that guys do these things to get my attention. If that is true, then I just want to say that getting my attention is not always a good thing. Maybe becoming my friend is. Most guys are thinking, "Yeah, right that girl wouldn't give me the time of day." If that's true then she's not worth it. However there are girls out there who would give the time of day.

So, for all the guys who harass, here's some friendly advice: "Stop it." Try and think before you do it, because most girls don't like it.

∞ Anita Kumar ∞





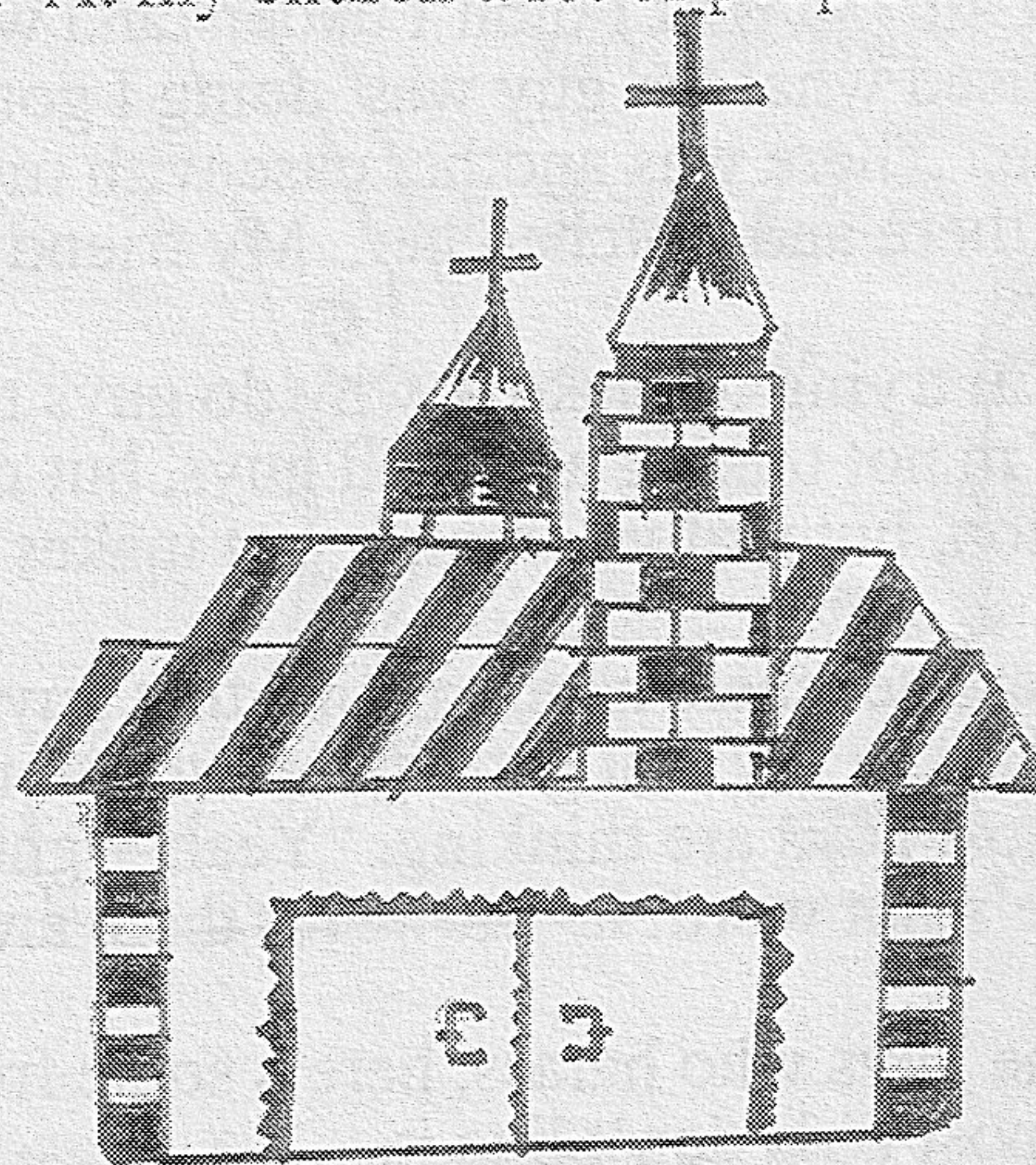
## Why I like my Church



My church is like a good faithful friend, something to depend on in my life. The reason why I like my church is because the people care about you and you have more friends than in the outside world. For example, you make friends in Sunday school and at youth events because when they come, you ask their name(s) and than you say yours. Then you start talking.

My church is near to where I live at Kipling and Steeles and Martingrove, and the name is Humberlea Church of God. At my church a lot of people want to help you if you're in trouble and you want someone to talk to.

∞ *Cherry Elcock* ∞



## I believe in God. What do you believe in?

I believe in God because he's the one and only God. There's no one before him and no one after him. He's the only one who can help you and me solve our problems. I believe in God. What about you? What do you believe in?

I started believing in God when I was six. Even though I believe in him I never obeyed his will. When I was ten I went to a wedding with my friend. While the preacher was preaching, I started thinking, and I asked myself Whoam I? Why am I here on earth? Before I knew it, tears were falling down my cheeks.

Then for some strange reason I started saying: "God I'm sorry for all the sins I did in all my life. And I promise I'll never do it again." After I said that, I saw my eyes open like a window. For the first time in my life I was happy. I was a changed person at once and I could see stuff I never saw before. But unfor-

tunately my happiness didn't last very long.

When I went home I was acting strange so one of my friends said something bad to me. Instead of walking away I said something and it wasn't pretty. After that it was all gone, it was like a room without windows. That was when I realized that I broke my chance of having everything in the world. The light was broken like a glass.

I wanna take this chance to tell all the teenage girls/boys that if you believe in God, and if you have him now, don't ever let him go. Because if you do, you may never get him back into your life again. As for me I'll just keep praying.

∞ *Perpetual Adom* ∞





# Eid

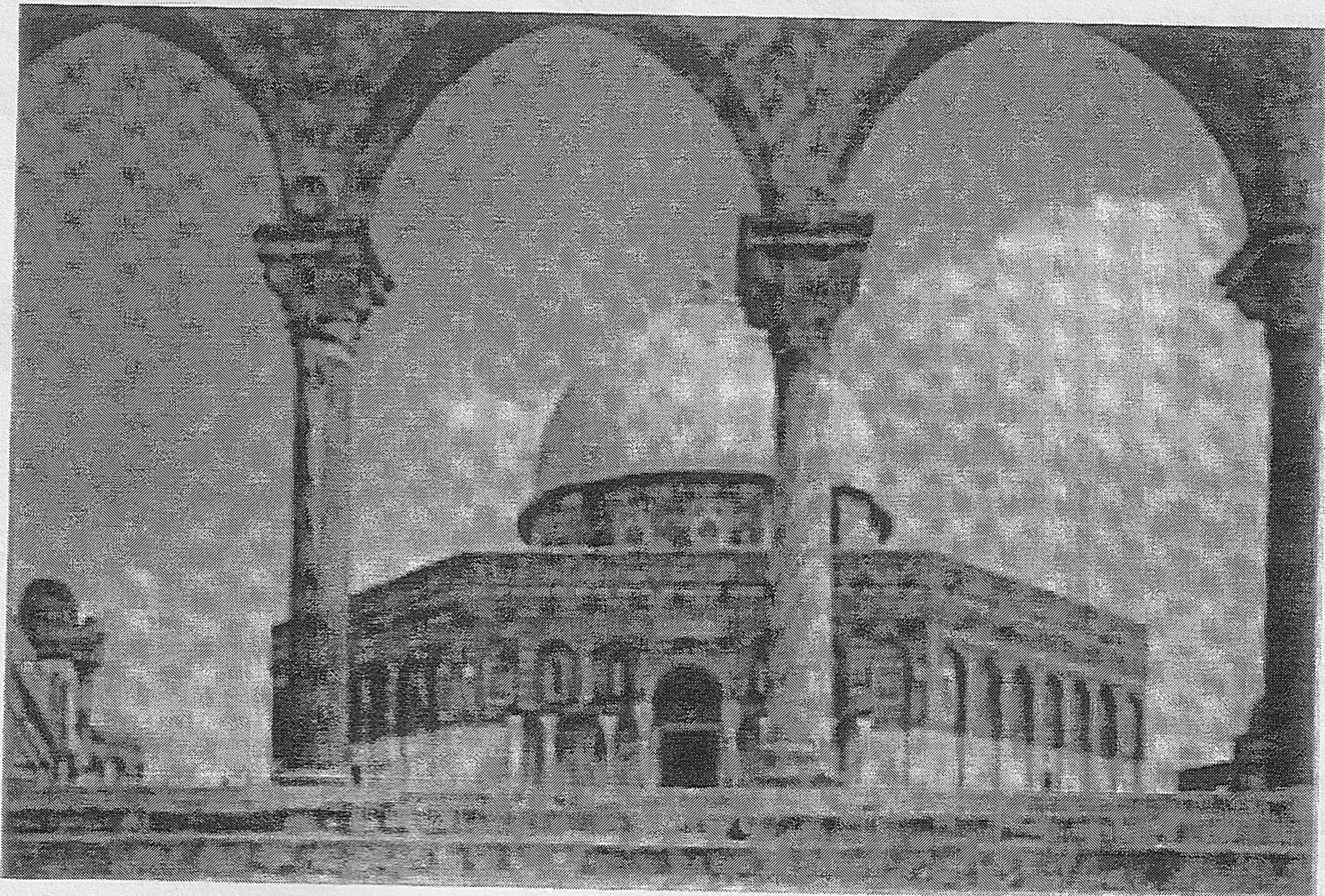
Eid is a celebration for the Muslim religion. There are two different kinds of Eid.

One of the Eids is called "Eid El Fity". "Ed El Fity" takes place at the end of the month Ramadan. In Ramadan Muslims fast for thirty days. For example, you would eat food at four a.m. and then you break your fast at sunset. After the thirty days of fasting, then comes "Eid El Fity", which is the day that Muslims break their fast, and have completed their fasting for the month of Ramadan. In Ramadan people fast for the purpose of receiving forgiveness from Allah (God). They also fast to cleanse themselves of sins that they might have done in their past.

The second Eid is called "Eid El Adha" which is on the 10th day of the 12th month of every year. During the month of the "Eid El Adha", all Muslims should go to Mecca and Hajji.

The purpose of "Eid El Adha" is basically that one the prophets, "Peace be upon him," dreamed that Allah (God) told him to kill his son. Most Muslim countries celebrate Eid the same way. On Eid day all Muslims go to the masque for morning prayers. Muslim people usually buy brand new clothes for the special day. Muslim families prepare traditional delicious food, for example sambse and baklawa.

∞ *Kadra Dayr, Nesteen Zeidan* ∞





## My trees



My bedroom window now looks out at the apartment building directly opposite to mine. There are trees separating the two buildings. Trees that are green in the summer with kids in shorts and t-shirts playing under them or maybe just lying down relaxing. Trees that are wonderful shades of orange to dark red in autumn, reminding me of the sunset on a clear summer day. Right now, the trees are nothing but a set of sticks joined together at the base extending into the ground. They have been stripped of their covering: the beautiful foliage that canopies them for several warm months of the year. But still there is a unique beauty to the trees outside my bedroom window- the way they sway gently at the slight breeze and the way the first birds of spring fly around them.

Trees have always been outside my bedroom window. They have just always been there to remind me that I should stay planted on the Earth just as they are. There is a certain serenity to trees. Whenever I feel like I want to hit something or to get angry at somebody, I try to remember the peace and tranquillity the trees have.

In the first country that I lived in, the trees outside my bedroom window were crotons. They grew along the river bank. They were always so dense that they all were trying to outgrow each other. Their tops waved in the air and the birds sang among their branches. I loved to watch the pale crimson sun rise majestically above their tops to start a new day.

Another window, another country, different people but trees are still there. I remember the first time I saw this window. It was late in the afternoon and I was tired from a very long plane journey. I took my first look inside the bedroom and the thing that caught my eye was the window. The sun was setting in a golden, scarlet blaze of wonder. The ocean was a blue-green against the transformation of the sky and the mountains on the sides of the picturesque view were completely covered with vegetation ranging from very lush green to the light yellowish green of the new leaves at the tops of the trees. Just a few meters away from the window was a row of perfectly planted coconut trees. Their huge trunks supported the mass of foliage on their tops and the ground under them was littered with small coconut trees that has grown from the fallen fruit. It was absolutely ideal in my eyes.

After a long day at school when I come home I usually do the most calming thing I know of. I look out of my bedroom window.

∞ *Sharmila Shewprasad* ∞



## The beautiful spring

Spring is my favourite season. Spring is my favourite because it's a time when things start growing, a time to go places like picnics, shopping, walks, Wonderland, Centre Island, skateboarding, roller blading, and many, many more things. This is what I do in spring.

∞ *Yogeeta Nagindass* ∞

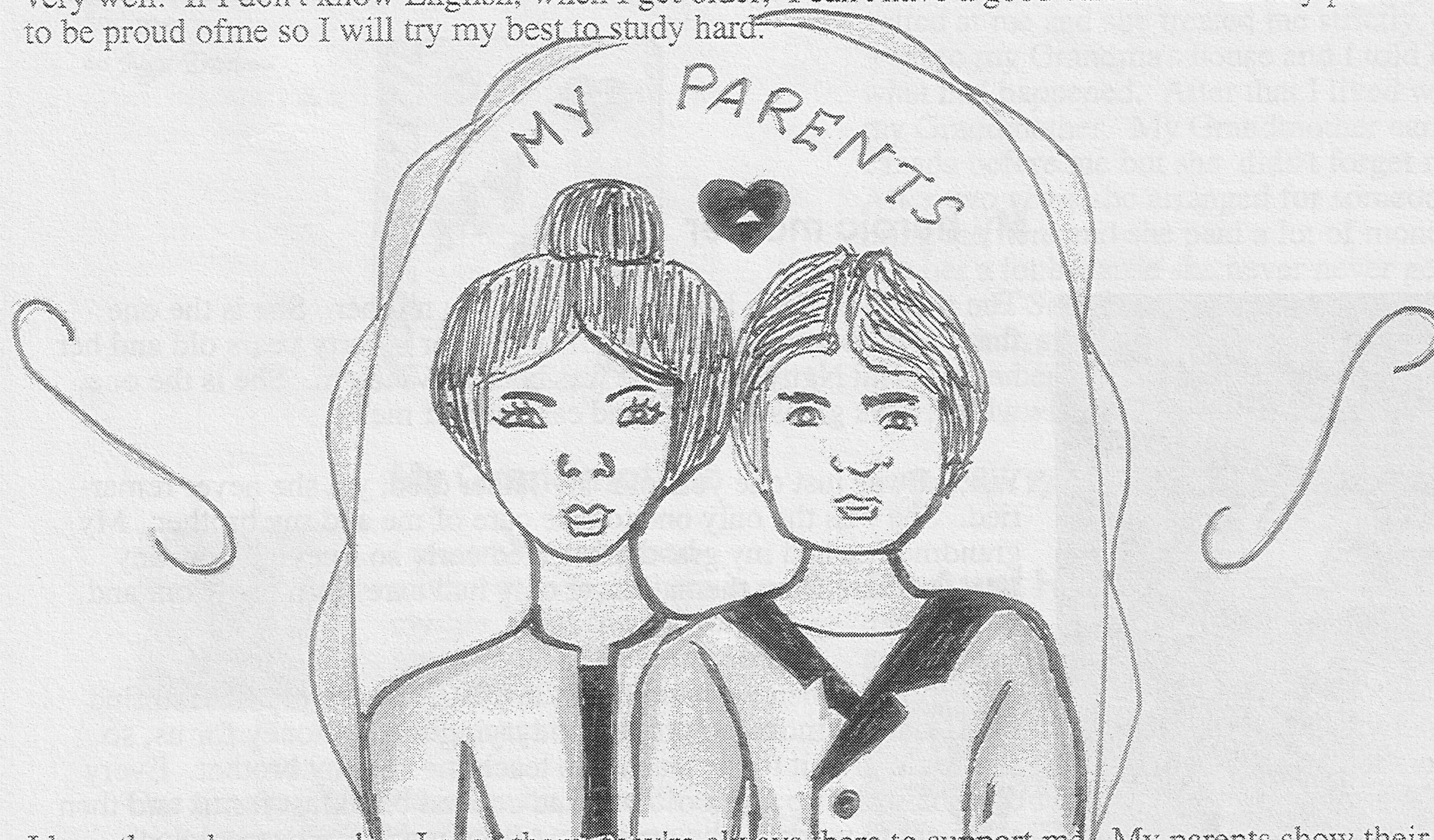


## My parents are my heroes



The heroes in my life are my parents. My father's name is Thanh; he's a very brave person. Her's very intelligent. He is also an interesting person. He always makes me laugh when I am crying or when I feel sad. My mother's name is Loi. She's a very quiet person. She is a serious person too. She concentrates on her work. My mom is also a very kind person. She likes to help people.

My parents are the most important people in my life. I love them more than my life. They have always taken care of me. Now I am 14 years old. I'm in grade 9, and my mom always reminds me about my education. She tells me all the things that I shouldn't do. She says I have to try my best to study. My parents speak just a bit of English. Sometimes they get frustrated, because when they want to speak out, but can't because they don't know English. When they go somewhere they have to have someone to translate for them. It's as if you have a tongue, but you can't talk. My parents have said I will live here all my life, so I have to know how to speak English very well. If I don't know English, when I get older, I can't have a good career. I want my parents to be proud of me so I will try my best to study hard.



I love them, because when I need them, they're always there to support me. My parents show their love to me by taking care of me. My dad is very funny and my mom is a very quiet person. They're the kindest people that I have ever met. I think my dad loves me very much even though he never shows his feelings, but my mom is always very affectionate with me. I think I'm the luckiest person in the world, because my parents are always beside me to tell me what's wrong and what is right.

I want to say that I love them very much, and I will always listen to them. I will help them be proud of me, by trying my best in my education. I will never forget these heroes in my life. Because they are my parents, they are always beside me.

∞ Thu Huong Nguyen ∞



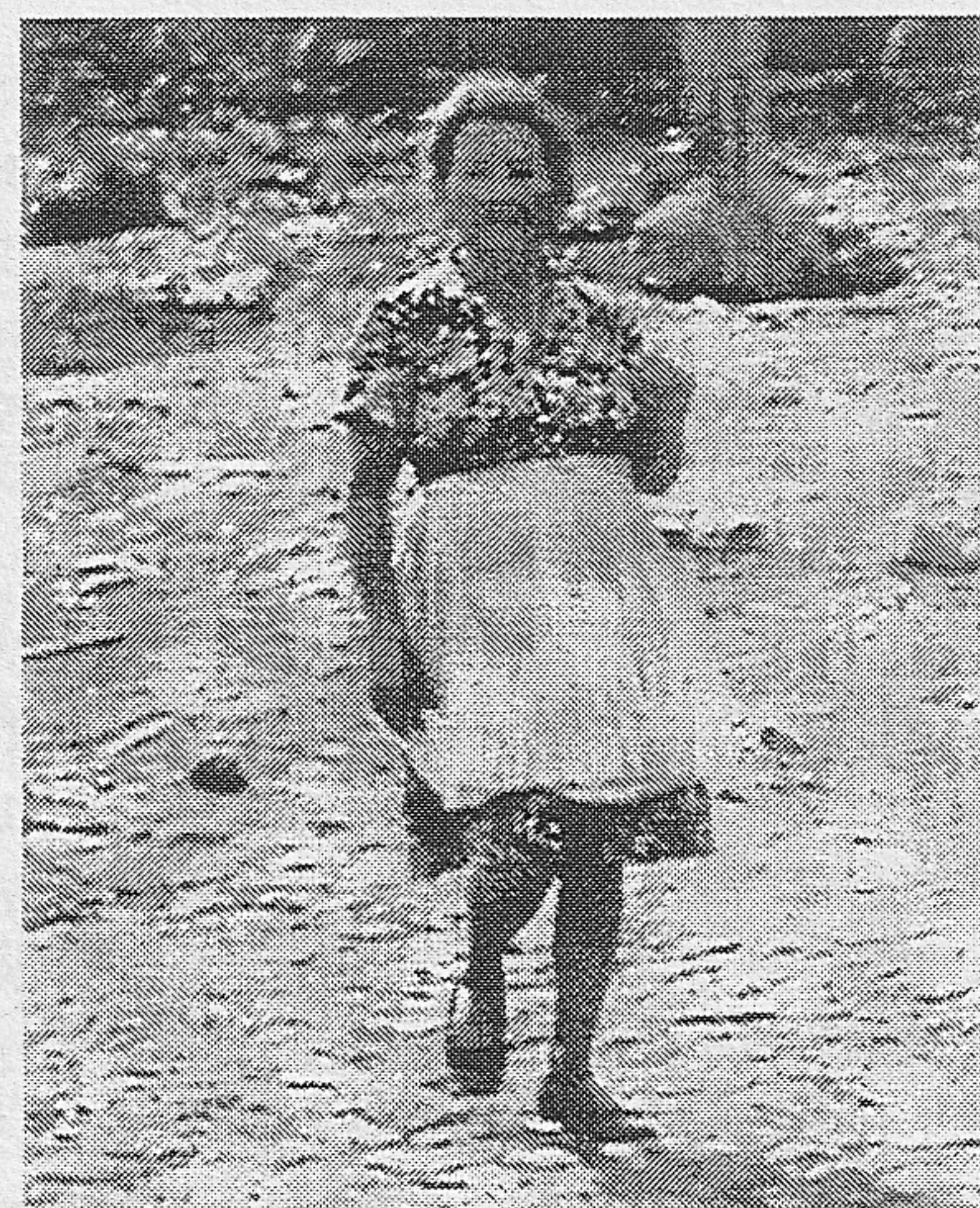
## My hero



My grandmother is my hero. When I was four years old my mother came to Canada and left me with my grandmother in El Salvador. I lived with my grandmother for nine years and she did everything for me. She took care of me when I was sick. She prepared my medication for me and she took me to the hospital.

When it was time for me to go to school, she bought me a school uniform. In the year 1993 my mother became a Canadian citizen, so she sponsored me to come to Canada, but I did not want to come because I wanted to live with my grandmother. I love her very much and I wanted to stay with her.

∞ Nery Cornejo ∞



## My heroic mother



The person that is a hero in my life is my mother. She is the one that I always love and respect. My mother is forty years old and her name is Hai Nguyen and she was born in Vietnam. She is the one who always gives me love and cares about me.

When I was just one year old, my father died, yet she never remarried. She was the only one to take care of me and my brother. My grandmother and my grandfather died early so I never knew any love and care from them. I have only had care from my Mom and my brother.

At that time when we were living in 1992, it was very hard to find work, but my mom kept trying and trying to get money for us, so she could give it to the teacher to teach me and my brother. Every day she woke up at six o'clock and cooked breakfast for us and then she went to work. She came home from work at eleven o'clock. She was very tired but she still cleaned my house. No matter how big or small the job was, she had to do it alone. She was very tired from work but she never got angry or screamed at me or my brother.

I remember when I came to Hong Kong, we lived in the camp, and life was hard. Then my mom agreed to marry a man she didn't know anything about and also didn't love. She agreed to marry him because she wanted to save my life and my brother's, and my stepfather could help us get out of the camp. I love my mother very much because she would do anything for us.

I love my mother more than my life, and I would do anything for her, to make her happy.

∞ Lily (Anh) Le ∞





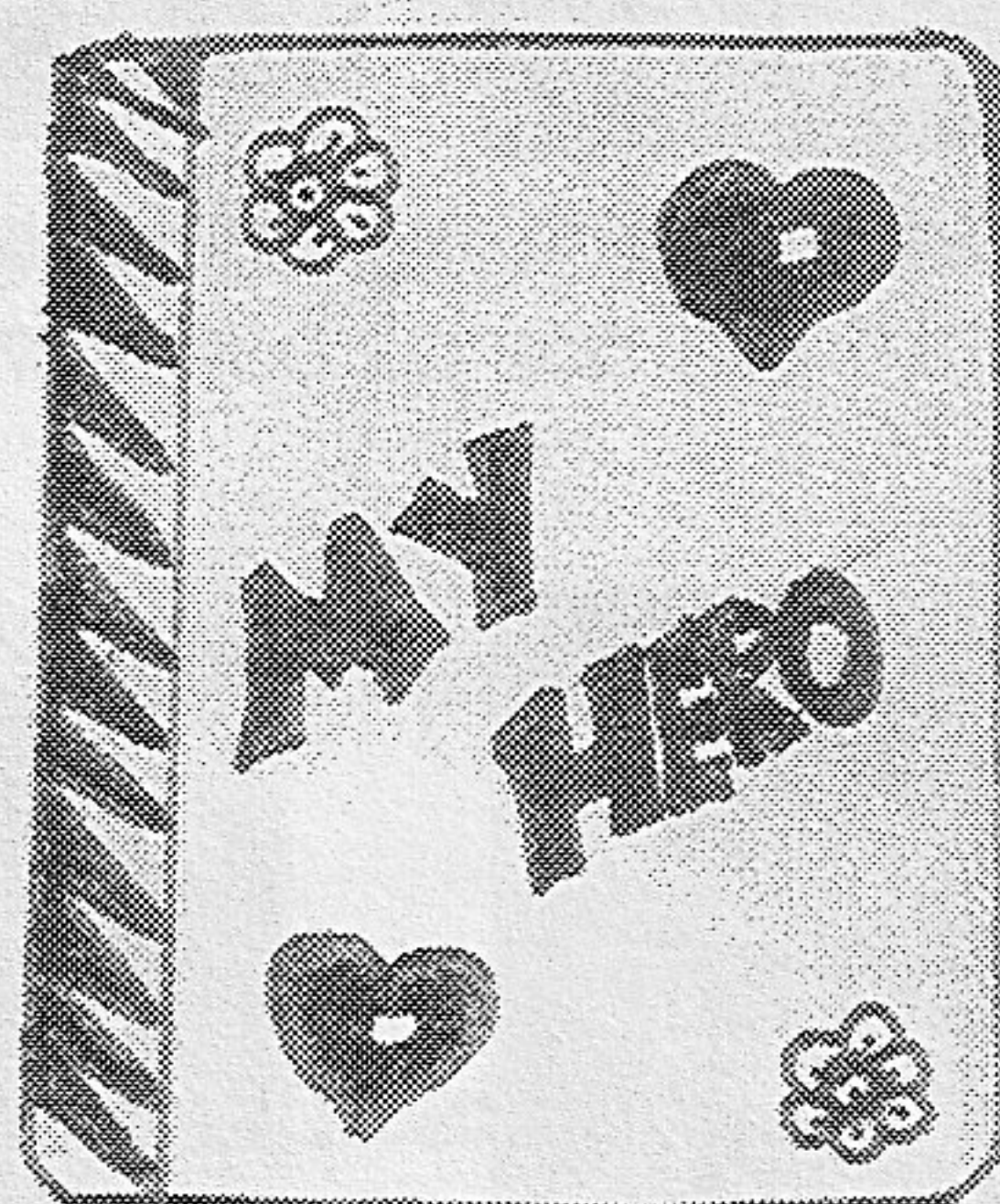
## Why my parents are my heroes



I live with my parents in Canada. They're 37 years old. My parents don't go out to work but they work at home, sewing clothes. I'm the only child in my family. I don't have a sister or a brother. I love my parents a lot and they love me.

I remember when I was a child, I went to school and my mom had to wake up at 7:30 a.m. and make my lunch. She had to take me to school every day because I didn't know the way to school. At night she read me a bedtime story. My parents work very hard to pay for my education so I will have a good future. I very much appreciate what they do for me.

∞ *Nga Tran* ∞



## My Grandmother



I remember my grandmother who is the hero in my life. I felt so sad when my grandmother died. She was very kind and brave and very protective of me.

One time my father tried to hit me with a stick on my backside. I went to my grandmother's house. I told her that my father was going to hit me and I was very scared. My grandmother went to my father and asked him why he wanted to hit me. She yelled at him and told him not to hit me because I was just a little kid. She said if he hit me, she would yell at him. Then my grandmother took me out for ice cream and I slept at her house for one day.

When I heard that my grandmother had died I felt very sad but I couldn't cry with my eyes. I cried with my heart.

∞ *Vinh Bui* ∞

## My unforgettable hero



I left my parents in my country when I was ten years old and I came to Canada. In Canada I am living with my Grandmother and my uncle. I love my Grandmother even

more than my parents. My Grandmother's name is Thangammah. She is from Sri Lanka. She speaks Tamil but she can't speak english. She treats me very well, much better than my parents.

I remember when I was a child, my mother yelled at me and she treated me strictly, so I went to my Grandma's house and I told her what had happened. After that I lived with my Grandmother. My Grandmother came to Canada before me but she didn't forget me. After two years she arranged for someone to bring me here and she paid a lot of money. I like her a lot because she never never gets mad at me. She always treats me very well. She is kind, sympathetic and she loves me more than herself. That's why she is my hero, and I will never forget her in my life.

∞ *Ajanthan Rasananthan* ∞

## My Aunt Hawa



My hero is my Aunt Hawa. She is my step-mother, the sister-in-law of my father. I have lived with her since I was six years old in Mogadishu. When I came to live with her, I did not bring anything with me. She

bought me clothes and she bought me a bed. She has treated me like her own child. She brought me with her to Canada. She is expecting a new baby. She works in the home and she takes care of everyone in the family.

I feel very sad for her because she is having a baby. She helped me when I was young so I will help her now by helping and cleaning the house.

∞ *Ayanle Abdullahi* ∞



# LOVE

# POETS



Junior Adedokun



Perpetual Adom



Monika Badwal



Stacey Boreland



Shannan  
Chamroeun



Kadra Dayr



Woodrow Do



Simone Lee



TThanh Nguyen



Natalie Patterson



Sam Prasad



Nithya Ratnam



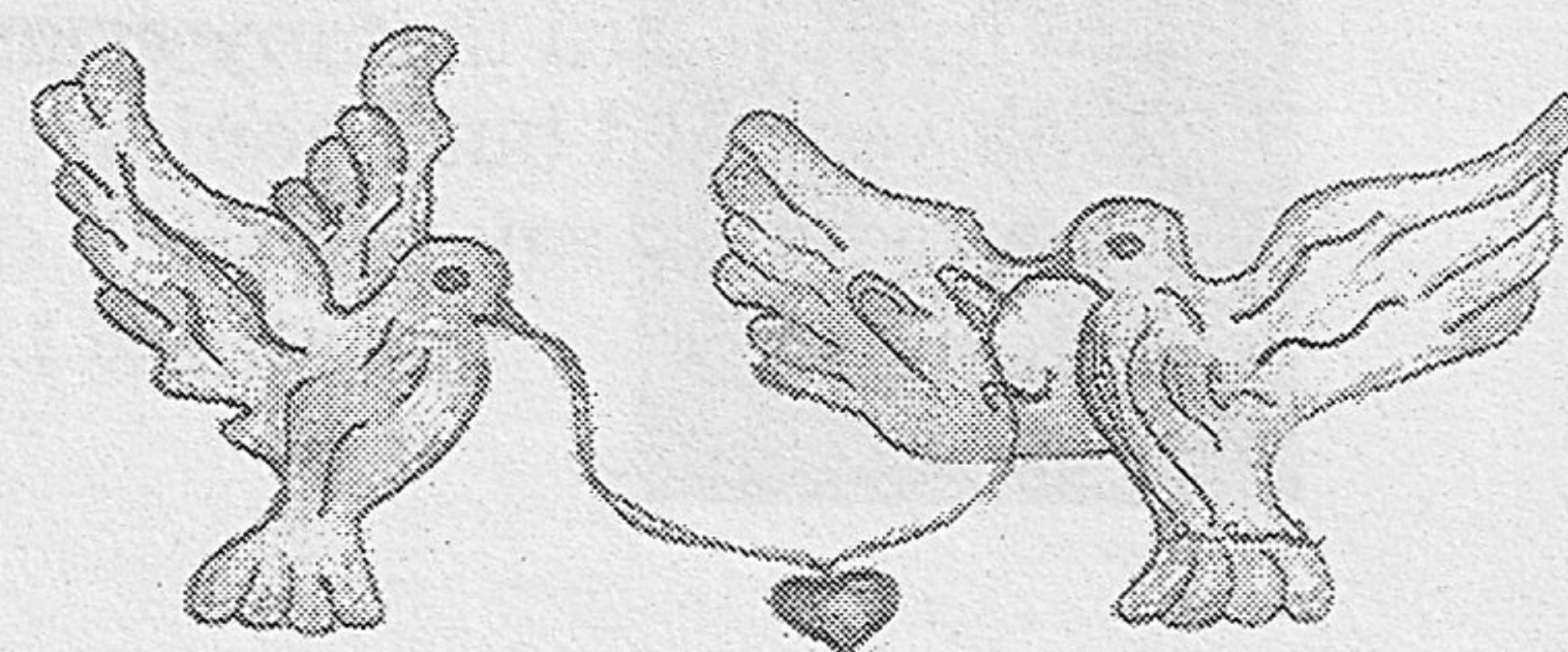
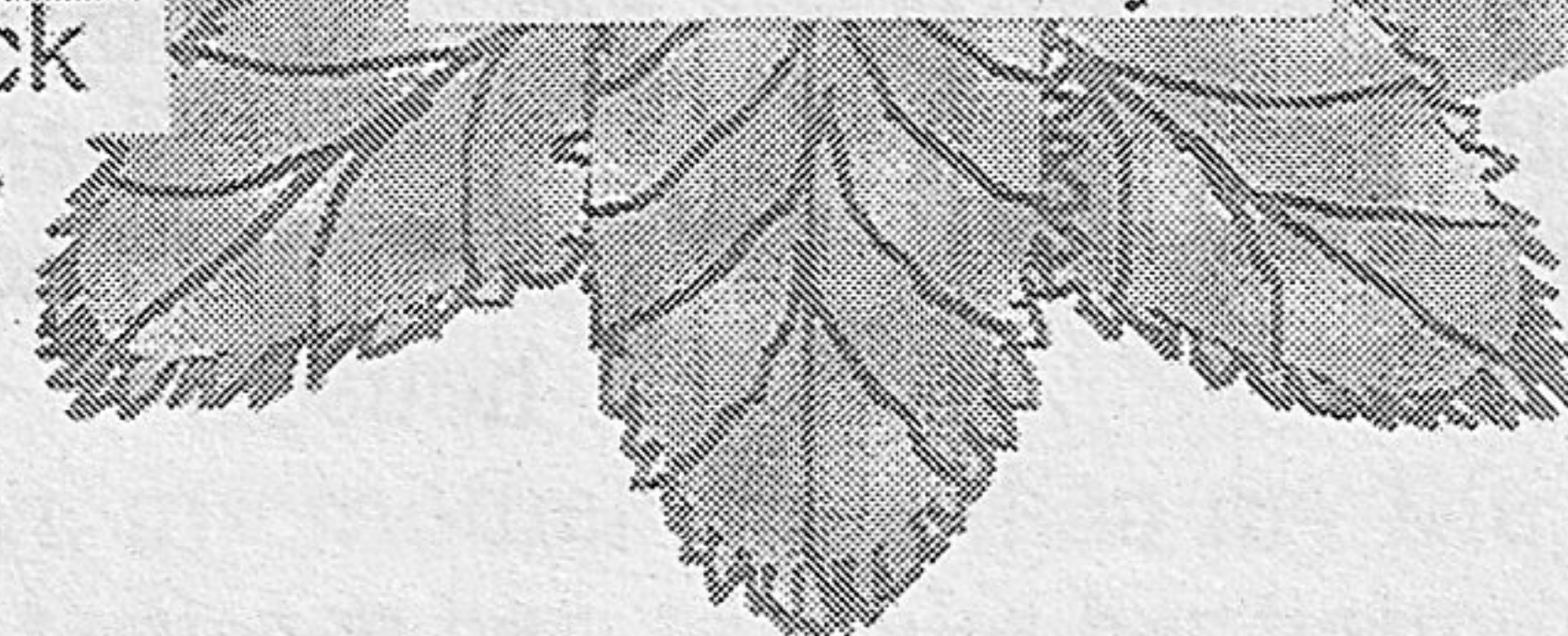
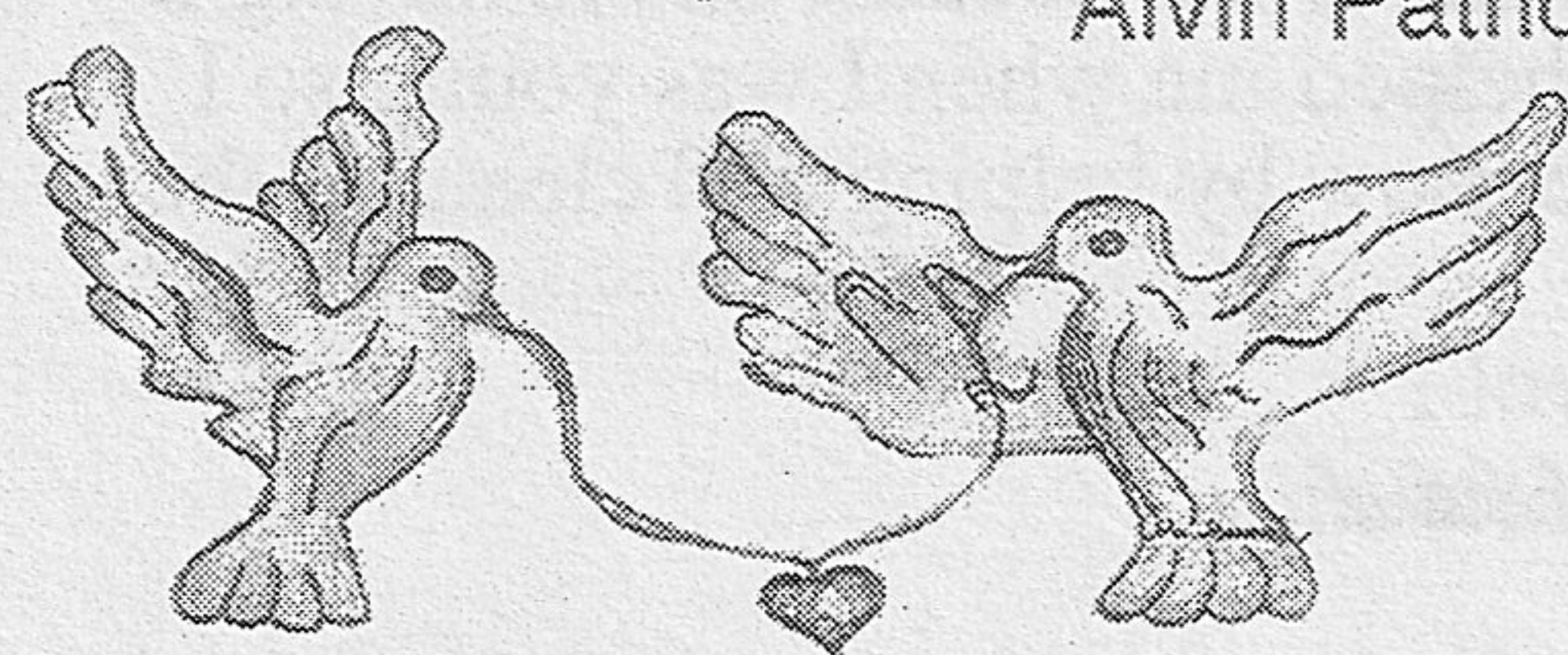
Alvin Patrick



Suresh  
Sriskandarajah



Nesreen Zeiden





## Learning to love ... again

Before I was scared to love just anyone  
I didn't want to be hurt all over again.  
I would try to hide away,  
Not listening to what people would say.

Then I met you,  
Someone who...

Gave me his trusting hand  
And tried to make me understand,  
Your love was strong,  
And that nothing would go wrong.

I didn't understand why,  
You took the time.  
I just couldn't see,  
Why you wanted to be with me.

Then you made me realize, your love was true.  
And that you never wanted to see me blue.

So...in return,  
I'll show you how my love can burn,  
For someone who  
Is as special as you.

You will always be in my heart.  
I could never see us part.  
But...if we do,  
I would just like to say, Thank You.

You taught me that I must  
Learn how to trust.  
For now, I can love again  
My heart has had time to mend.

But...most of all,  
I must recall,  
Even though things may not be the same,  
As the way they came.  
One thing will still remain true...  
...I will always love you.

∞ *Vingam Huynh* ∞



## Within your heart

Love is very nice to have within your heart.  
Without love you will always be apart.  
Love is something that everyone should have.  
If everyone has love,  
This world would be a better place .  
Everywhere you look, people are  
dying children are crying,  
brothers and sisters fighting with their parents.  
I just wish everyone could be one  
And have some love.

∞ *Simone Lee* ∞

## You and I... forever friends

You've always been there for me  
Time and time again  
You've always been by my side  
Through thick and thin

When I needed a shoulder to cry on  
You were always there  
When I had a problem  
You were the one who cared

The friendship we have  
Will always be the same  
For you and for me  
It will always remain

No matter the distance  
Inside my heart  
The closer we are  
Although far apart

I don't want us to lose touch  
For you are a great friend  
The friendship we hold  
Should not have to end.

∞ *Vingam Huynh* ∞







### Only friends?

More than just feelings  
But are they true?  
Why do I deny it?  
Do I really love you?

Always together  
Hardly apart  
Is there something  
I'm not telling my heart?

You've always been there  
Or at least tried to  
I don't remember a time  
When I helped you

Difficult position  
At a difficult time  
You know your intentions  
But do I know mine?

I feel so relieved  
When we're together  
At some point in life  
I feel so much better

You've given me more  
Then you have to offer  
But still to me  
You're just another friend

After all  
We've only been friends  
I'm sorry to say  
I hope our friendship doesn't end

∞ *Anonymous* ∞

### The love triangle

I love you so much  
But so does my friend  
I want to stop  
But my feeling for you will never end

She loves you too  
And I am standing in her way  
And we both keep hurting  
Day after day

But I know what I must do  
I must keep my friendship  
over loving you

∞ *Thanh Nguyen* ∞

### My Sorrow

The pain in my heart  
The sorrow in my soul  
When the moment came  
When I had to say good-bye  
Our hopes and dreams  
Like the flower in spring  
May no longer exist.  
I gave you the key to my heart  
And you opened it  
Like a door.

On each day my love rose for you  
The way the sun rises in the sky.  
But all you ever did was  
Play with my mind.

I gave you my heart  
And you tore it apart.  
It would have been so different  
I would have made you so happy  
But now it is too late  
You had your chance  
And you shattered it  
Like a glass.

∞ *Kadra Dayr* ∞



### What's wrong

I call you at night  
You're not at home  
I see you every day  
But we're never alone  
It's been a long time  
Since we last talked  
Held you in my arms  
Or went for a walk  
If something is wrong  
Don't be afraid to say  
Because I'll be waiting for you,  
All night and day.

∞ *Sam Persaud* ∞



## Time

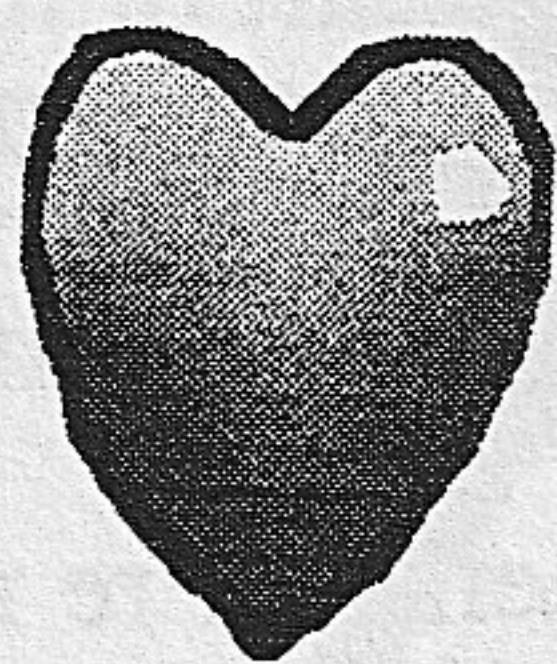
You weren't mine then,  
You aren't mine now,  
But the time will come  
When we won't be apart.

∞ *Monika Badwal* ∞

## Only for you!

It was yesterday that I realised your love was true.  
I have listened to every word that you have said, and have understood.  
Millions of my tears dropped down, after I realised how much I hurt you.  
Once my love was rejected. That is the reason why I'm afraid of loving again.  
But when you came along, I felt my love for you was strong.  
Now that I have given my love to you, Please keep it true.  
'Cause loving someone is a hard thing for me to do.

∞ *Thu Vuong* ∞



## Confused

What I think of you is hard to explain  
To me it's harder than the function of my brain  
This is because I don't know for sure myself  
I wish someone would help me like a little elf  
Sometimes you say you love me  
It doesn't seem true from what I see  
Tell me is it true? Do you love me as much as I love you?  
I know at first you did  
That's when my feelings were hid  
Now all I want is your attention  
I know you feel like you're in detention  
I hope you have a better picture of how I feel  
Please tell me, will this feeling ever heal?

∞ *Nithya Ratnam* ∞

## I love you

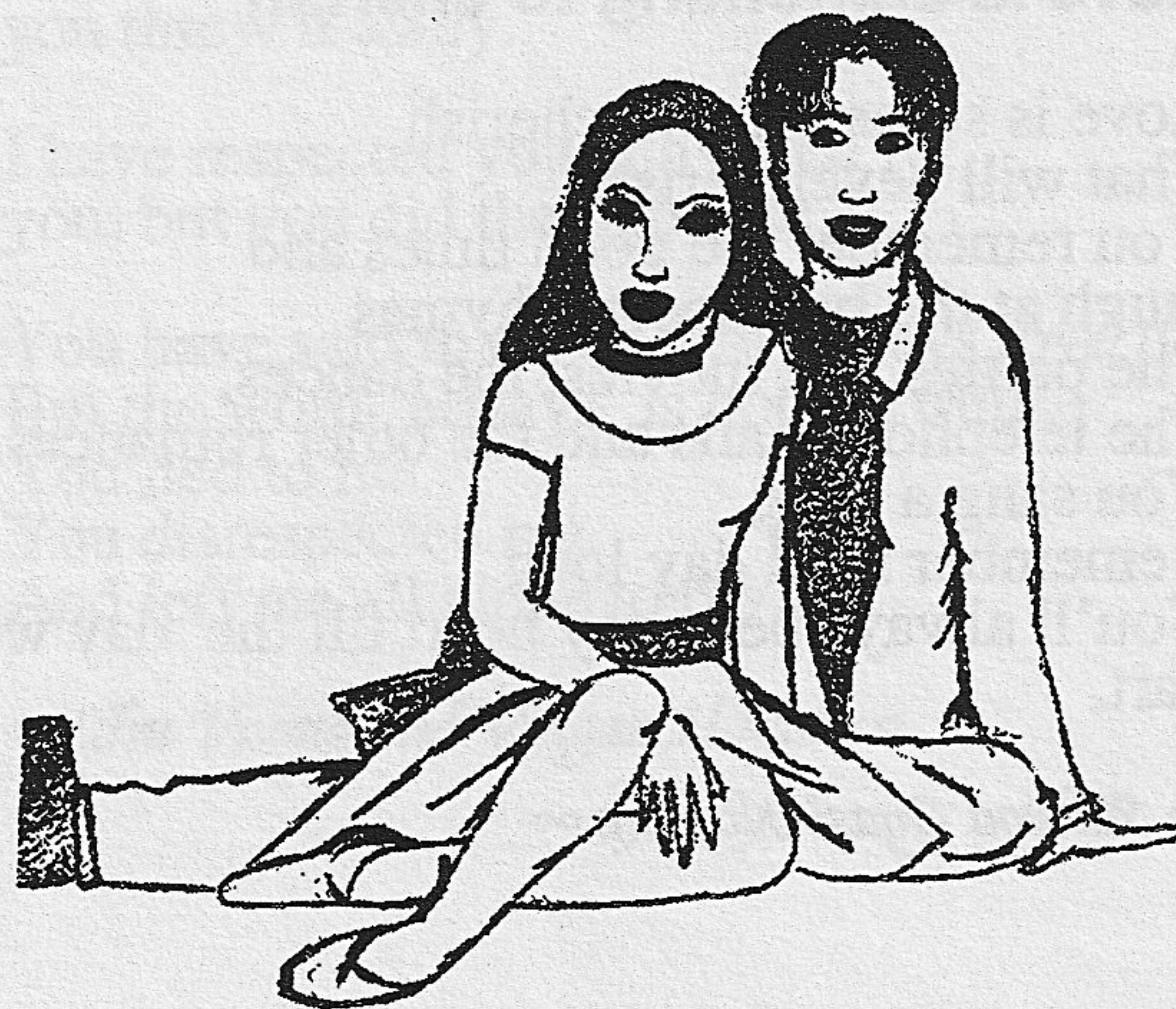
I want to say I love you  
But I'm afraid you'll laugh  
And if you laugh when I tell you  
It would break my heart in pieces  
I want to do more things with you  
Because I love you so  
And if I ask you to do these things  
I'd die if you say no  
I want you to love me  
As much as I love you  
And if you say you hate me  
I don't know what I would do  
My love for you is like a stream  
That runs forever true  
And my stream of love will never  
Run dry  
As long as I love you.

∞ *Sam Persaud* ∞

## First love

When I first met you,  
When we were first introduced,  
I knew then that there was love,  
Love at first sight for me,  
I could feel the chemistry,  
Between you and me,  
I love you with all my heart,  
Please tell me darling, that we won't part.

∞ *Woodrow Do* ∞







### Love is tender

Love is tender  
soft and slender,  
yet strong and powerful.  
Above all, it's sweet and doubtful.  
Love moves mountains,  
creates wars, keeps people  
together. Without it,  
man would disappear  
forever.

∞ *Adwoa Gyasi-Nimako* ∞

### Love is a feeling

Love is a feeling  
I would always have in my heart  
And if I love someone  
No one can tear us apart

Love is sometimes like clouds  
Moving after a time  
But if I love someone  
They will always be mine

Love is like a darkness  
You could never find  
'Cause don't you see?  
Love is blind

∞ *Alvin Patrick* ∞

### Love is something to cherish

Love is something to cherish  
That will never perish.  
You remember the good times and  
laugh at the bad poetry rhymes  
The parties, the movies, the dances,  
The telephone calls and the other romances.  
You sang a song.  
Remember it all day long.  
You'll always be in my heart till the day we  
part.

∞ *Adwoa Gyasi-Nimako* ∞

### Love is special

Love is something we definitely cannot buy.  
Love is created when people care about each  
other.  
There are many different ways of showing our  
love  
There's the way a mother loves her son,  
And there's friendship between two people.  
Love is a way of showing your emotions.  
It is like a commitment, yet it is very strange.  
Some people love their families, religion, what  
they have become, and pets.  
Love is a part of life; it happens anytime, when  
we are young or old.  
It is hard to get rid of, and even if we do, it will  
always be a part of us.

∞ *Anil D. Charran* ∞

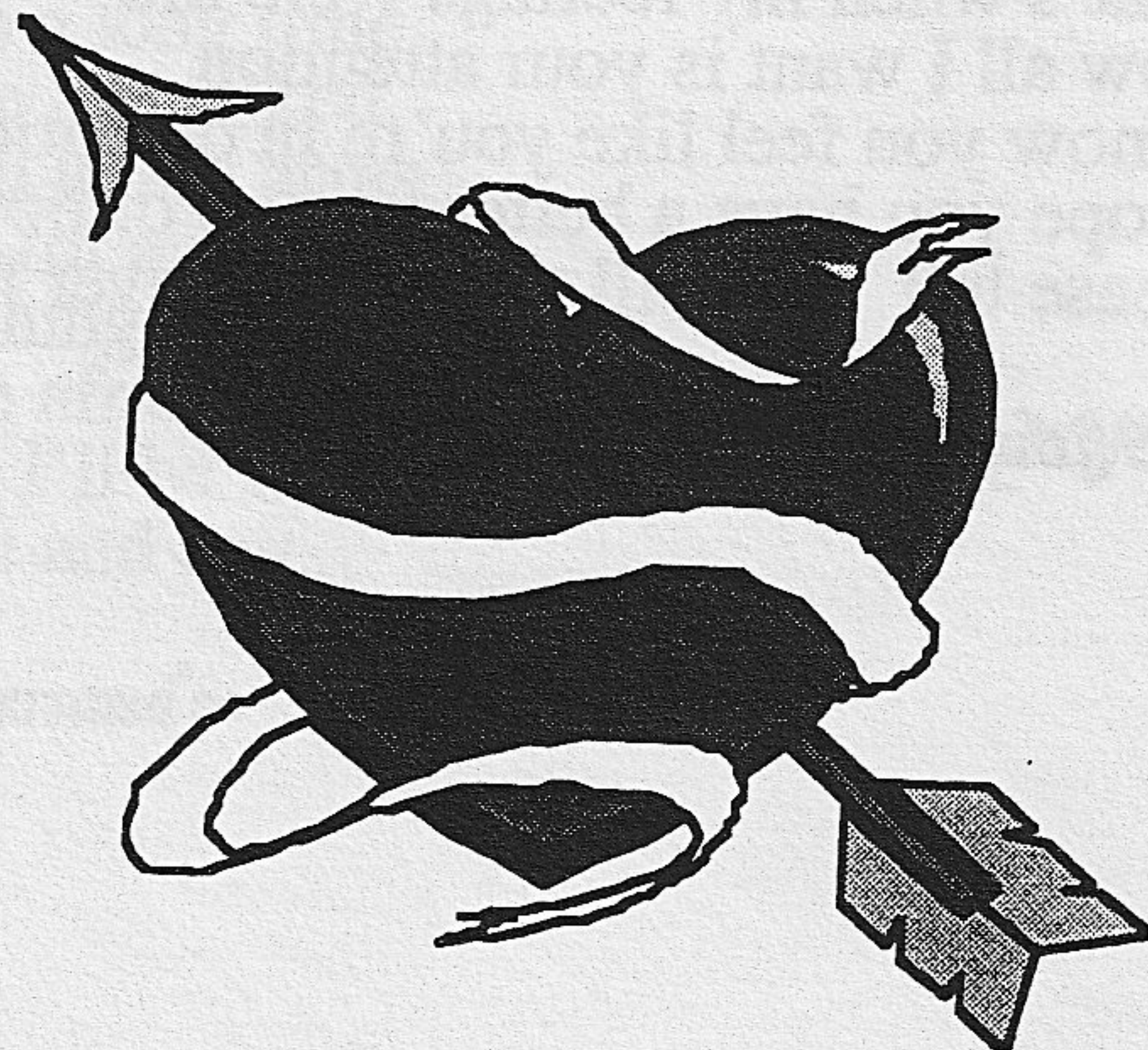
### The heart of the matter

The heart of the matter still remains  
when you're not around it always rains  
some rain I love, but some feels bad  
when you're not around I'm always sad.

When you're not around I always wish I  
wasn't born  
And when I'm alone without you I feel like  
There's a tender storm inside me.

The tender way you touch me I pray will never  
end  
Please don't leave me alone in the darkness  
and rain  
Because the heart of the matter still remains.

∞ *Perpetual Adom* ∞





## Goodbye

Goodbye is all I can say,  
To the guy I thought was meant for me.  
I'm seeing things so differently,  
I never knew that things could change.  
I can't believe it, but it's true,  
That I'm in love with someone old and new.

I've always thought  
Our love was meant to be,  
But now somehow, some way  
Our love has lost its way,  
Goodbye and let the good times stay,  
Moments have slipped away  
But not the memories we have shared  
Time must go on, so must we,  
Now it's time to say Goodbye.

∞ *Parmijt Banwait* ∞

## Bleeding heart

Jumping upon it  
You have destroyed it.  
Trampling over it  
You have spoiled it.  
Making it bleed,  
While you tear it apart  
Not only our love,  
But also my heart.

∞ *Adwoa Gyasi-Nimako* ∞



## I'm sorry

I wish there was a way to tell  
you that I'm sorry .  
But I'm not so sure you will want to hear.  
The undying feeling of being unforgiven  
Like an animal caged in fear.

I wish there was a way to tell  
you that I love you,  
I want you to know how much I care,  
Like an ocean's everlasting current  
My love for you will always be there.

∞ *Brian Lee* ∞

## I died for love

In the dark where I did dwell  
Along come the boy I loved so well  
There he said he would set me free  
I couldn't believe he was gonna leave me

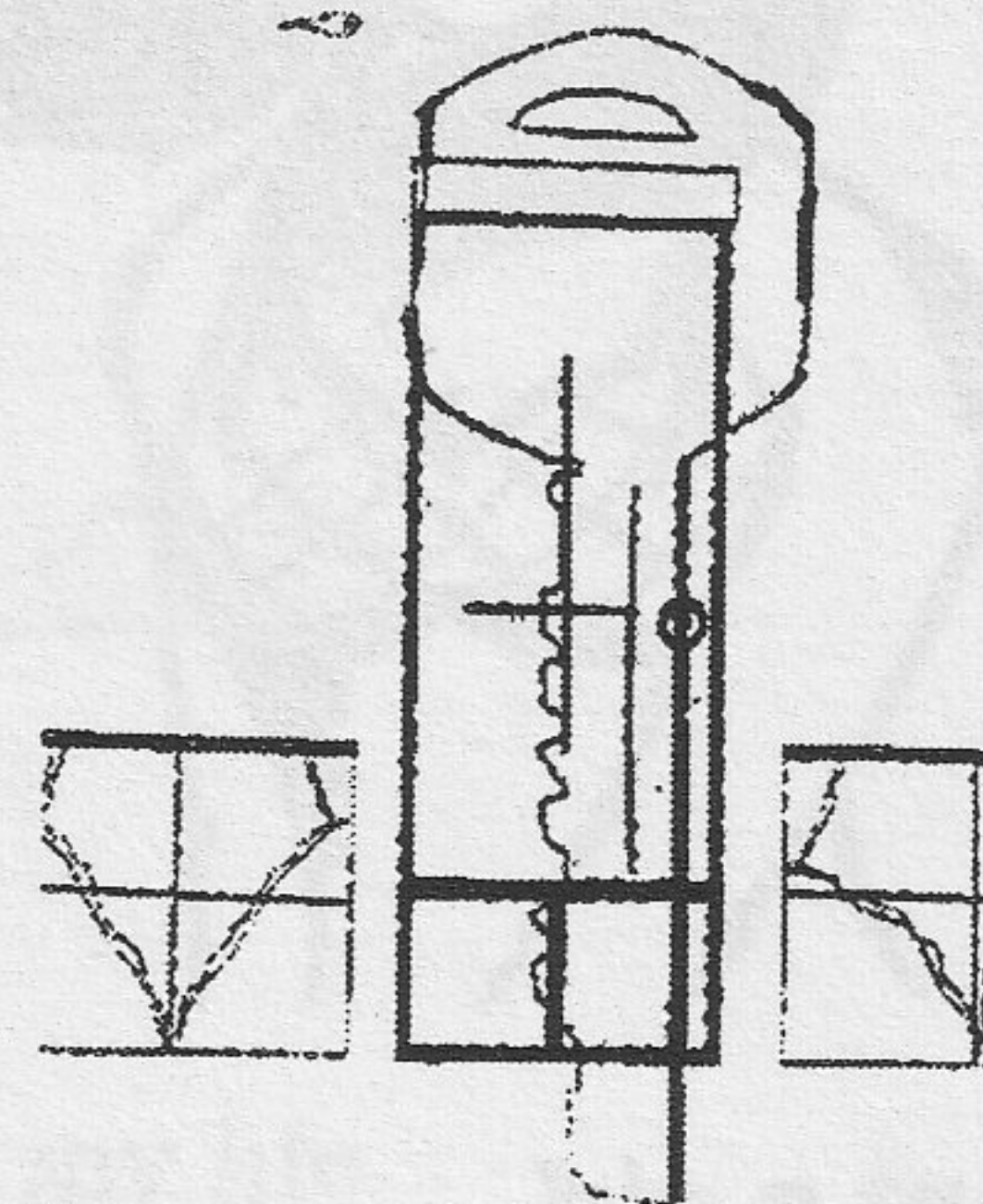
I ran to cry on my bed  
Not a word to my mother I said  
My father got home late that night  
He looked at my mother from left to right

He ran up the stairs, the door he broke  
To find me hanging from a rope  
"My darling child what have you done?  
Took your life for one man's son."

He cut me down from the rope  
And on my desk he found a note

"Dig my grave and dig it deep  
Place a marble stone at my feet  
And on my gravestone place a dove  
To show the words  
"I died for love!"

∞ *Nesreen Zeidan* ∞



## Love....always?

I have never given you the key to unlock  
my door.

I have given you my love, but instead  
you threw it away.

I have respected you and cared for  
you, but you did the opposite.

You have said that you will always love me.  
But the word 'always' is not the truth.  
You lied to me.  
You disrespected me.  
And left me all alone to cry.

∞ *Thu Vuong and Vingan Huynh* ∞



## Dream girl

As I stepped out of the  
Dark door of reality  
Into the magnificent dream land  
I saw the beauty of beauties  
A beautiful girl appeared  
She was prettier than  
The dark-orange sunset  
And had an adoring voice  
Ready as a young spring bird  
Her style of walking  
Was more attractive than a  
Slowly-walking, colourful peacock  
I just hoped I could  
Live forever in the land of dreams  
Where things are so beautiful.

∞ *Suresh Sriskandarajah* ∞



## I want a girl

I want a girl with  
Extensions in her hair  
Bamboo earrings  
At least three pairs  
I want a girl with  
A nice attitude  
That's all I need  
To get in a good mood  
I want a girl who could  
Love me for me  
Not because I have  
Lots of money

∞ *Alvin Patrick* ∞



## My girl

I'm looking for a girl  
Someone who will care  
'Cause I have so much love  
That I want to share.

She'll always be with me  
Even when I'm blue  
She'll always cheer me up  
By saying, "I love you."

The special girl  
Is hard to find  
This constant search  
Is blowing my mind.

∞ *Junior Adedokun* ∞



## Strange young girls

Strange young girls  
coloured with sadness  
Eyes of innocence  
hiding their madness

thinking these kisses  
were sent by the dove  
off on a trip  
accompanied by love

gentle young girls  
holding hands, walking  
wisdom flows child-like  
while softly talking

colours surround them  
bejewelling their hair  
visions astound them  
demanding their share

children of orphans  
called by the dove  
off on a trip  
accompanied by love!

∞ *Natalie Patterson* ∞



## The love touch

The sun was blazing red, I saw this handsome guy. I got so excited. My heart was beating like a drum. I went over and asked him his name. His name was Michael. At first his name sounded like music to my ears.

He had a personality that no one had. His muscular body made me want to scream and my blood ran wild whenever I saw him.

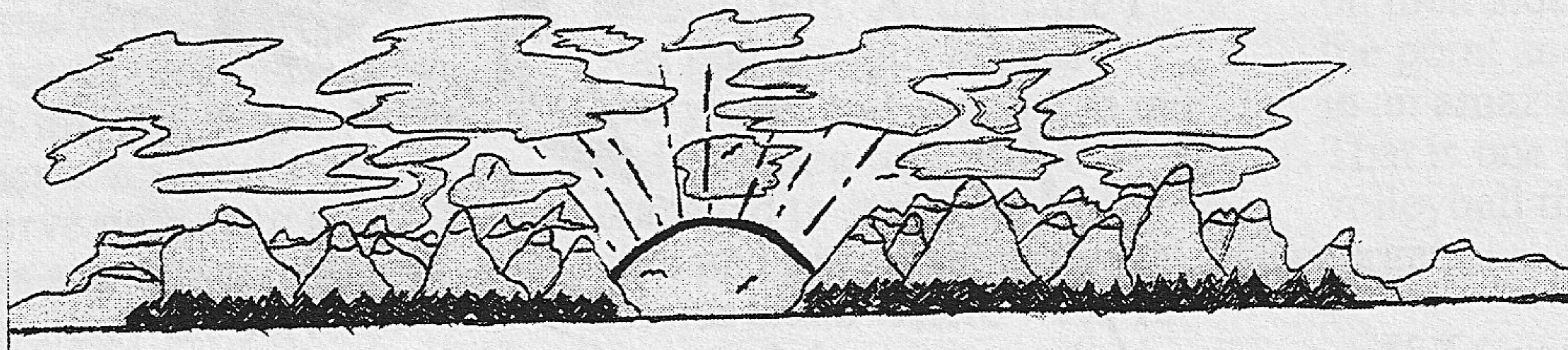
His eyes were dark brown, and had a sparkling look that made me smile all the time.

I felt his tender arms around my neck. His hands were soft and comfortable and the love I felt made me feel well relaxed.

Suddenly his tender lips were coming towards mine. His lips were red as a cherry, soft as a sponge.

I felt my smooth hot lips touching his. I realised I was starting to have a love touch that no one could give me, but this handsome guy who made me boil.

∞ *Stacey Ann Boreland* ∞



## One and only

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
Love is sweet  
But not sweet  
Like you.  
Love is true  
So are you .  
And in my heart  
We'll not part.

∞ *Anil Charran* ∞

## In my life

The most special day in my life  
is meeting someone true  
The most special thought I had  
was when I was with you  
The only thing on my mind now is  
Thinking of what to do  
And where to go  
Sometimes I like being alone  
Somewhere away from my friends  
Far away or somewhere at home.  
Sometime's I think I'm not seen  
When I'm too hurt and I'm too free.  
But most of all I feel  
There's nothing left inside of me.  
I think I worry too much  
Especially when I'm out of touch.  
I worry that it'll never change.  
I really worry that something  
Bad will happen again.  
Most of the time I'm afraid of  
Things that won't go away  
Some things that would happen again, day  
after day.

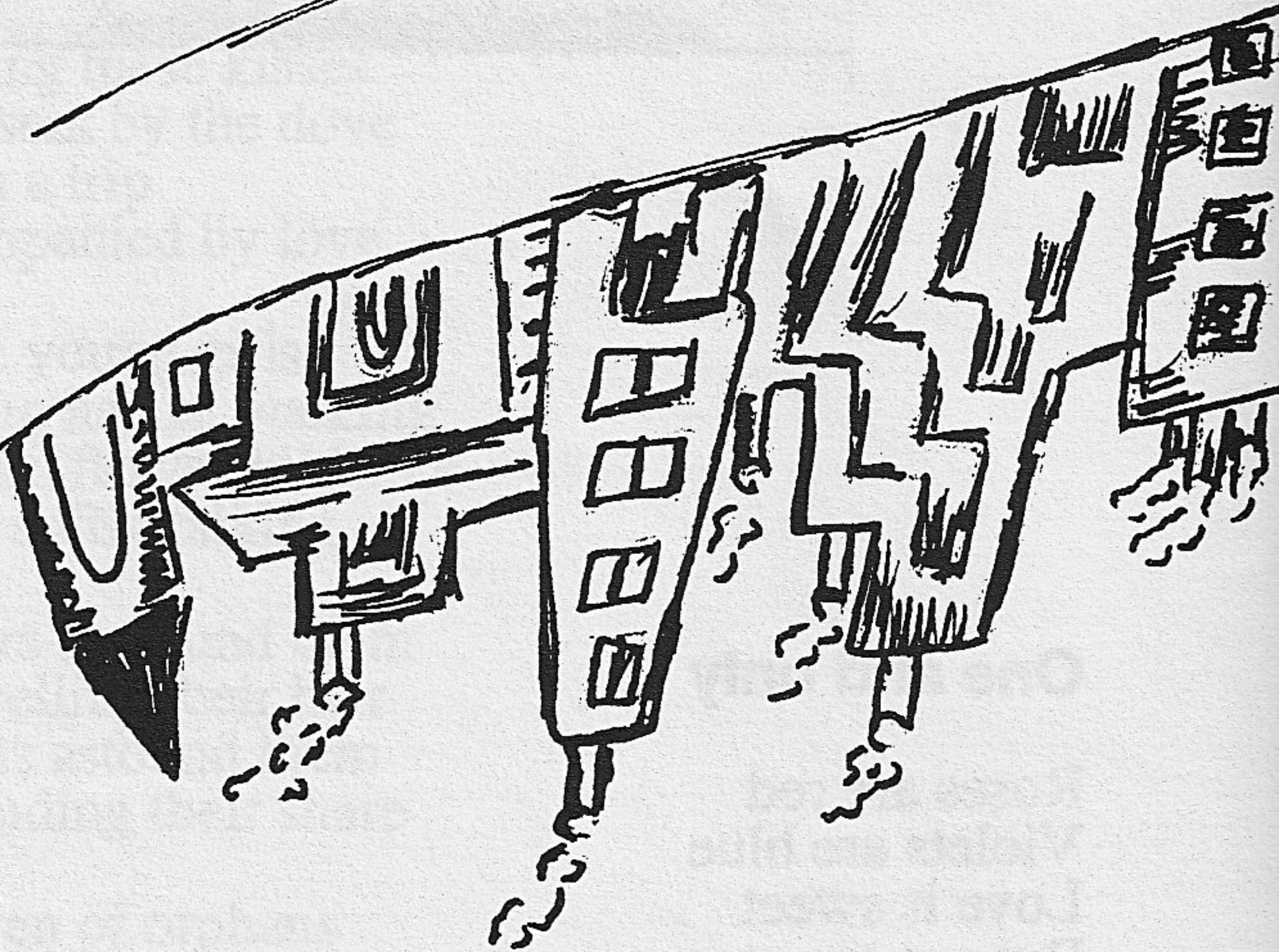
∞ *Shannan Souk Chamroeun* ∞



## The roads of life

I question what the future holds  
 Ask I do so really bold.  
 My life is but another road,  
 As yours and many others,  
 Filled with turns and filled with folds,  
 Will our paths ever cross?  
 Hopefully I do so ask,  
 For when they do, you will find,  
 Our love now and eternally, will forever bind  
 When our paths do so cross,  
 You will see our love, I have not lost  
 The bumpy ride of life, I will have rode  
 But my love for you is not a day old.

∞ Woodrow Do ∞



## Two roads

There are two roads in life  
 Everyone may have to face.  
 One may lead to happiness  
 One may lead to pain  
 But who knows what the future is like  
 Unless we experience it ourself  
 So make the right decision  
 Follow the right path  
 It will bring happiness instead of pain.

∞ Thanh Nguyen ∞



# My most memorable day in volleyball

I was a grade 8 student and was on the grade 8 volleyball team in Brookview Middle School. The most memorable day for me in volleyball occurred when our team went to Westview Centennial Secondary School to play in a volleyball tournament against other schools. It was a memorable day for me because when our team played the third game, we were losing by 8 points. There was a timer which had to be set for 10 minutes a game and our team was losing by 8 points with only about 3 minutes to go. When the other team finally lost their serve with only about 2 minutes and 50 seconds left, I had to hurry the serve as soon as I heard the whistle blow. Once I served the ball

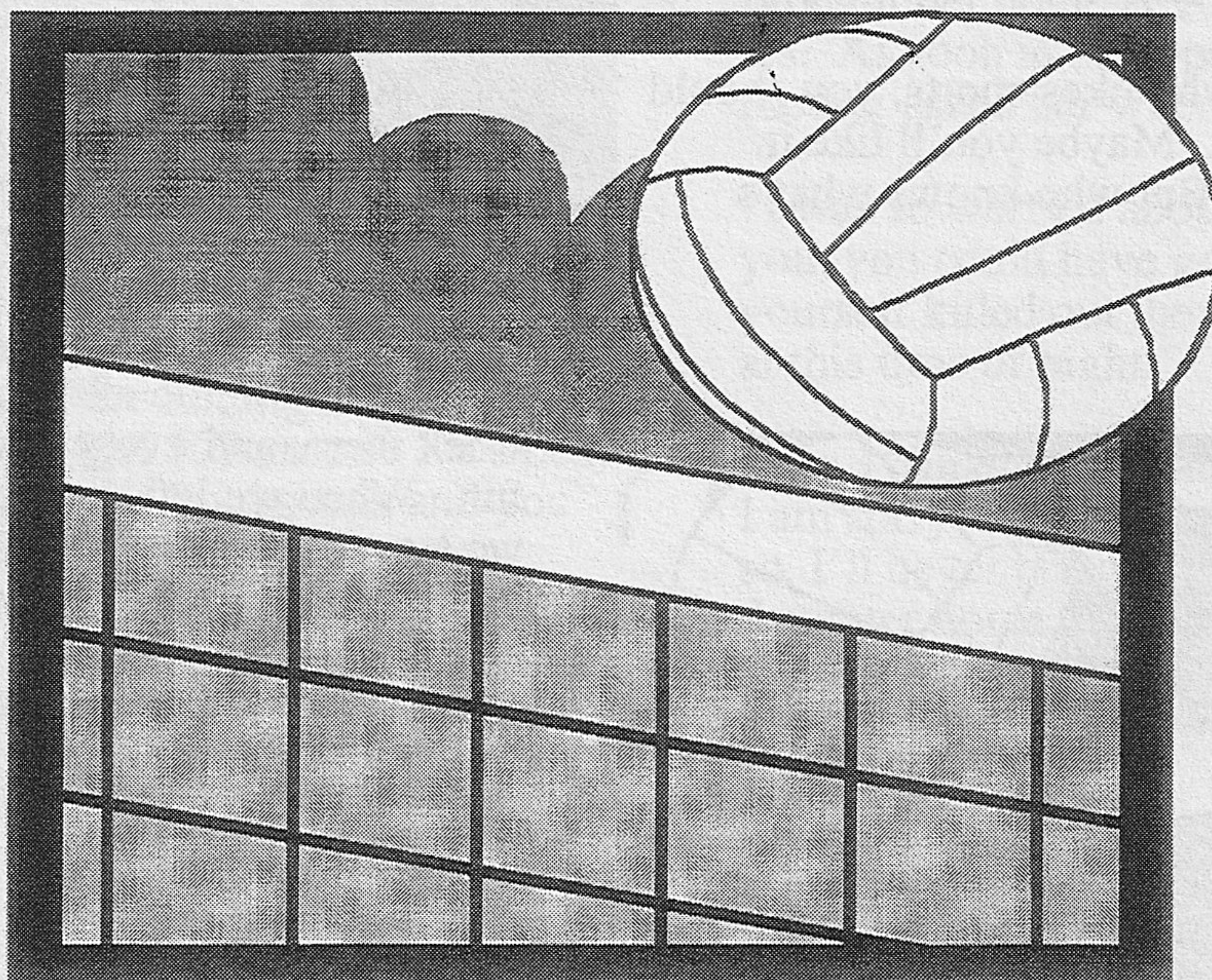


our team got 1 point and time was running out. Then I served the ball again as fast as I could and our team got the second point and time was still running out. With about 40 seconds left, I was still serving and we were down by only 4 points. Now I really had to serve the ball fast. I heard the whistle because there was only 30 seconds left. I served the ball once and then served the ball again. Now our team was down by 2 points with only about 20 seconds left. At this time I was real nervous because everybody was looking at me and cheering too. But I managed to serve the ball over and get another point for our team. There were 15 seconds left and everybody on my team had tied the

game with 8 seconds still left to play in the game.

I was really nervous but I took my time until there was about 3 seconds left. Then I served the ball over. Once the three seconds was over, a buzzer went off because the time was up. It did not matter because we still had to play for the point. The game finally ended when the ball was on their side and they had hit the ball to me. From there I bumped the ball up to the setter who volleyed up to one of my team-mates who spiked the ball successfully on their side. We had gotten the point and won the game in an amazing come back. That is one memory in volleyball that I will never forget.

∞ Neil Sannasgala ∞





## Favorite Sport



One of my favorite sports is volleyball. I would call it one of my favorite sports because it's not very easy to play and not a lot of people play it.

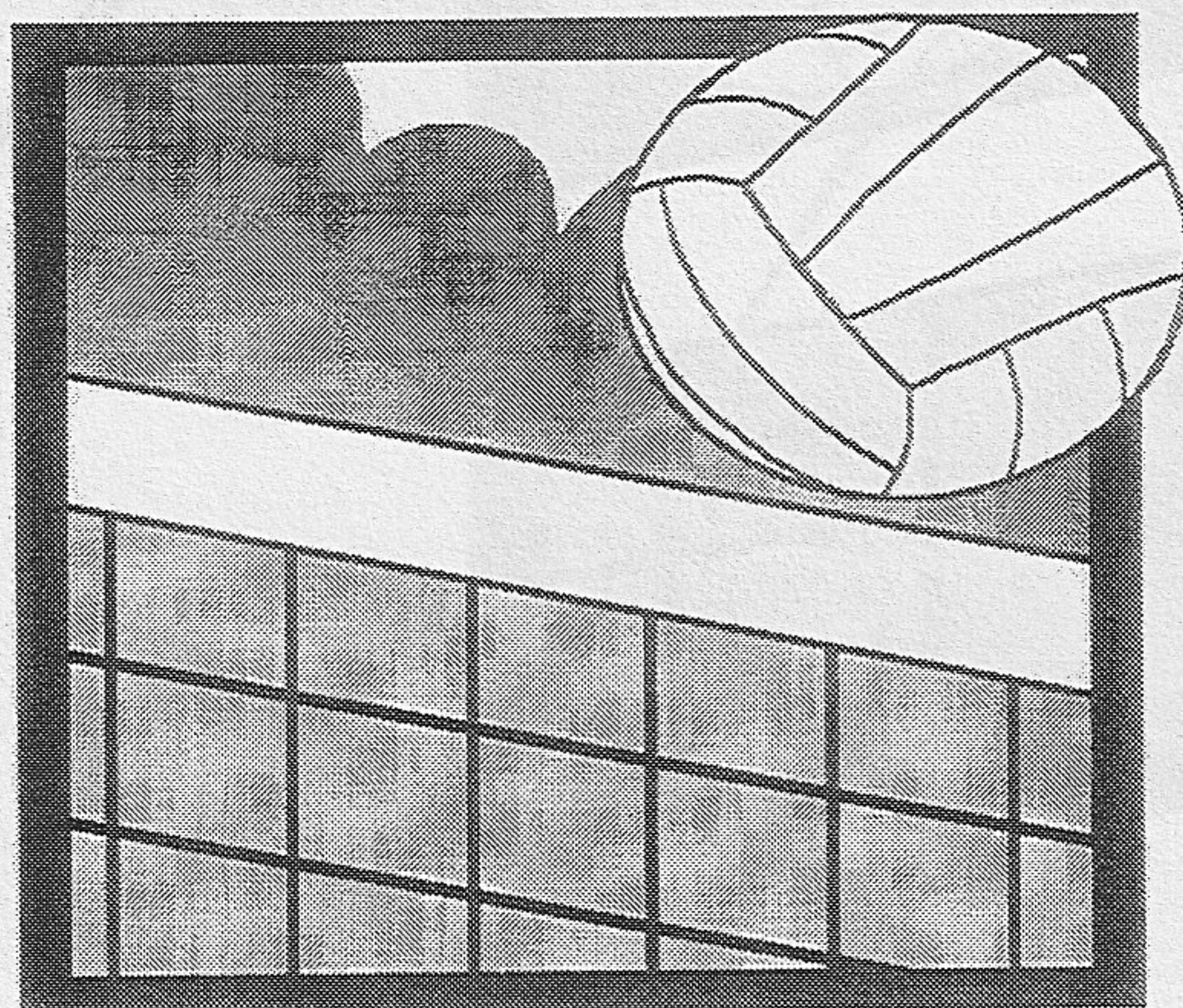
If you're starting out in volleyball, you have to learn the proper skills. For example, you would have to learn how to bump the ball and if you don't have the proper technique, the ball would go flying all over the place. It would also hurt your arms if you don't know the proper technique when you bump the ball.

I also like it because it's a quiet sport. And whenever you go up for a spike and you connect with the ball, you get this great feeling inside of you, and it makes you feel like spiking the ball over and over again.

There was this one time when I felt like spiking the ball over and over again. It was last year at Westview and we were playing for the gold medal. Well, my setter gave me a really nice set and I went up and met with the ball and we got a point for it. That point gave us the lead for the first time in the game. After that I wanted to spike the ball over and over again, because from that point on we pulled away from the other team.

If you are the type who likes sports, you should give volleyball a try. Maybe you'll like it. Maybe you won't. But who knows what's going to happen?

∞ Anh Ta ∞



## Places I like to go

I like to go to lots of places, like Paramount Canada's Wonderland, Ontario Place, Exhibition Place, Wild Water Kingdom, Metro Zoo, and African Lion Safari. I like to go out of Toronto and visit places like Montreal, Ottawa, Scarborough, Brampton, Hamilton, Vancouver, etc. My family and I go to these places to visit friends, relatives, or just for vacations. The places I went out of Canada were in the U.S. I went to Washington D.C., Miami, New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. I went to Disneyland, Universal Studios (Florida) and Universal Studios (Hollywood). I also travelled through South America. I went to Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and I passed by Belize.

The most fun place I ever went to was Universal Studios in Florida. I remember it very well because I went there last year, on July 4, 1994 and it was great. I went with my family, just two days before my sister's birthday. She was lucky because she got to spend her birthday there. So we left in the morning and got there around 1:00 in the afternoon. We spent one week there, and every day was more and more fun. When we left, we headed to Chicago and we stayed there for two days at one of my dad's friends' house. Then we left.

I hope this year I travel to other places and have more fun. I went to all these places with my family and sometimes we took friends. And this is where I live.

∞ Daniel Maldonado ∞



## Hip hop



Hip hop music is in my blood from the age of five and I love the music and what it is all about. I can remember when I was five years old and my big brother blasting the music I love so much as I'm bobbing my hand and moving my feet. The hip hop music makes me feel complete. I pray to God that the hip hop trend will never end. Listening to my brother's friends rapping all about their lives and about life itself. I miss those days, the good old days when hip hop was the new music of the 80's. Now it's 1995 and hip hop music is still here so my prayers were answered after all, since I was five years old.

∞ *Brian Morrissey* ∞

## My favourite radio stations

I like a lot of radio stations like Energy 108 but my favourite radio station is AM 640 and FM 103. I like AM 640 because they play a lot of good songs. They play a lot of techno music like Jungle, and hip-hop. I like FM 103 because after midnight they play a lot of old techno songs. They play about 3 songs before the news starts in the afternoon or morning, but midnight, around 10 o'clock they play songs until 2:30 and then they say the news. After midnight, if you put your radio station on FM 103 around 1 o'clock, you will hear a lot of good old songs and you can record a lot of music from that station. They even play reggae music sometimes, but most of the music is techno and that is why I like that station.

∞ *Dorcas Kushimo* ∞



## In my spare time

What I sometimes like to do in my spare time on the weekend, is just to go outside and shoot some hoops with my friends or I set up a time and date to go shopping with my older sister and younger niece for clothes, shoes etc.. But what I really love to do in my spare time on a hot summer day is I get on the phone and call up my girl friend and make arrangements to go somewhere like Wonderland, the Ex or even to go to watch a movie at Sheridan Mall and sometimes I would end up bringing her home late. For example, last week Tuesday I brought her home at 10:00 pm from the movies. As soon as she opened the door her mother asked her where she was.

"I was so worried about you, you could have got yourself killed out there at this time of night."

Then I came in and said, "I am sorry, Miss so and so. I'll never bring your daughter home this late again with out telling you. It will never happen again."

Lucky for her that I was there or else she would still be grounded to this very date. And from that date on I never brought her home late again.

∞ *Junior Adedokun* ∞

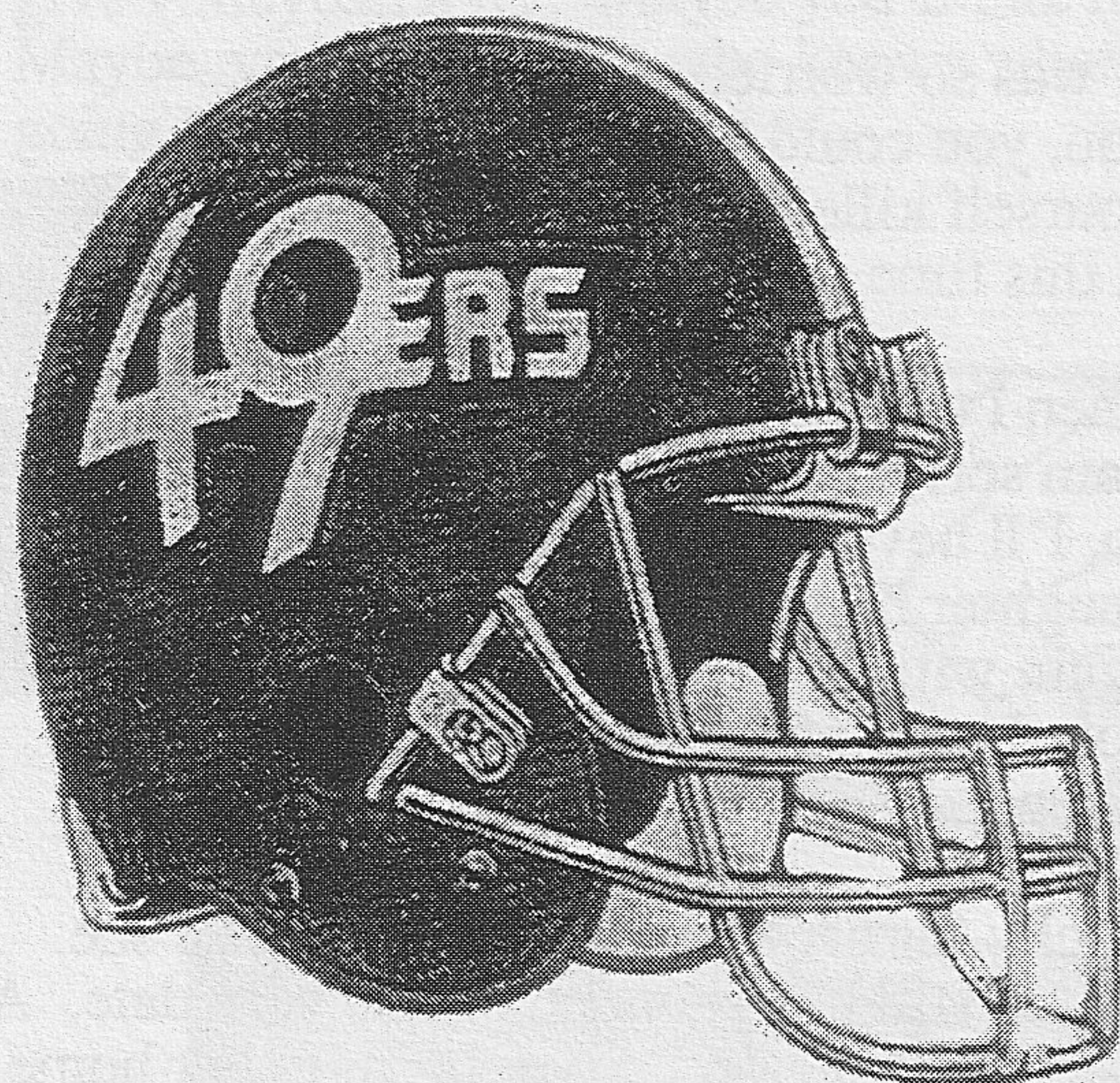




## Football

Once there was a boy named Robert. Robert was a nice kid. He always tried to make you feel good and tried not to say anything to make you feel bad. He also liked football, and liked to play it because it was his most favourite sport in the world. His dream was to play football with the guys, and he told them that he wanted to play in the NFL some day. But, there was only one problem-he was too small and skinny. They would laugh at him and make fun of him about how small he was. There was only one person who believed in him and thought he could make it in the NFL. It was his best friend Brian. "One day," said Robert, "I am going to move away to another state where there is a college with a football team." That's what his mom said because he liked football and he wanted to play in the NFL. "So I guess that is good bye and I wish you good luck," said Brian. The other week Robert and his family were off to the other state. After a few years, Brian got a letter from Robert saying that he would be playing in the NFL but he didn't know for what team yet. He thanked Brian for being there and for believing in him. He will repay Brian someday soon so it was goodbye to his friend.

∞ *Marlon Stewart* ∞



## Sports



There are many kinds of different sports in the world that I enjoy. I think the most popular sport in the world is basketball. People can enjoy watching it and also playing it. I prefer to watch it. My favourite sport is baseball because I like hitting the ball and running to the base. I also like soccer, but it tires me out pretty fast because it's hard to keep up with the other players, but I won't give up, I'll just keep on trying. I have to say sports is a big thing in my life and I enjoy it very much.

∞ *Ghedlawit Futzum* ∞

## My weekends

I wake up around 9:00, and by 9:30 I am on the baseball field warming up with my team. I'll get home from practice around 11:00. After that I just might watch a little TV. I might watch it until 1:30 and then call up my friends to go out and do something. We might go downtown or we just go to a billiards place nearby to play video games or play pool.



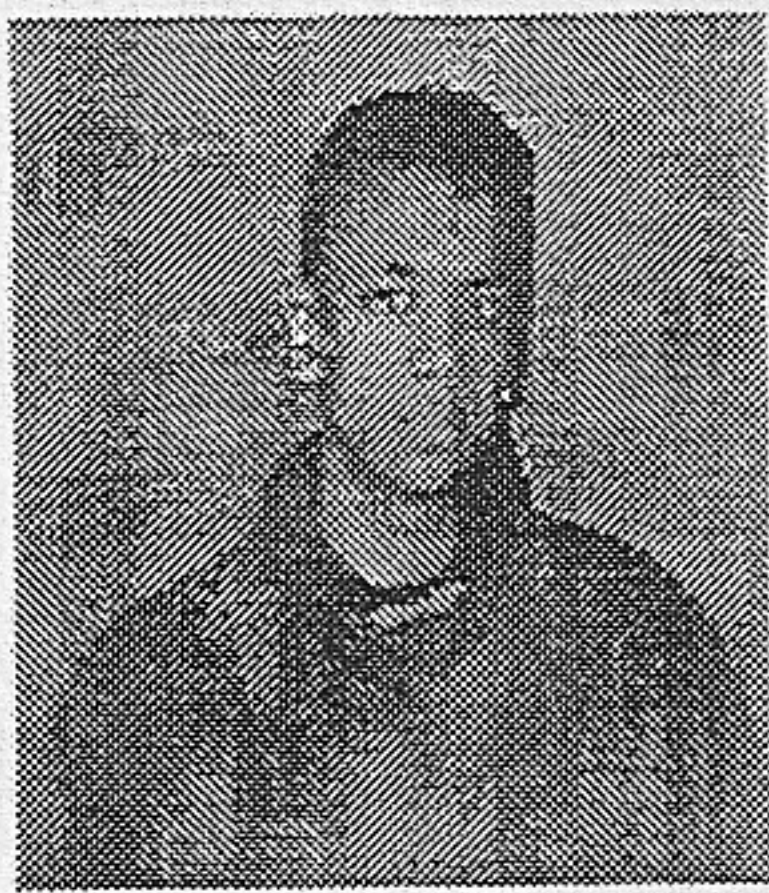
By the time we get home it might be dark so I either go to my friends' house or they will come over and we'll just hang around and do nothing.

On Sunday it's totally different because on Sunday I'll watch TV for a while and then I'll have to get ready for school. So on Sunday I will get ready and I might be home the whole day doing my homework.

∞ *Anh Ta* ∞



## Shot gun



This car has a V8 engine, and it is a 5.7 L engine also. This car has an Alpine system in it. At the back there are two 15" speakers and one amplifier and one equalizer. There's a leather interior. The speakers are pumping 400 watts, the motor has 450 horsepower and the mufflers are called suppertrappes. The suppertrappes give you one hundred horse power each. The covers on the lights are called GTS the tires are low profile Yokahomma with ARE's rims. The car has been dropped 2-3 inches. It has a very dark tint and the colour is pearl white.

∞ Ricky Doodnaught ∞

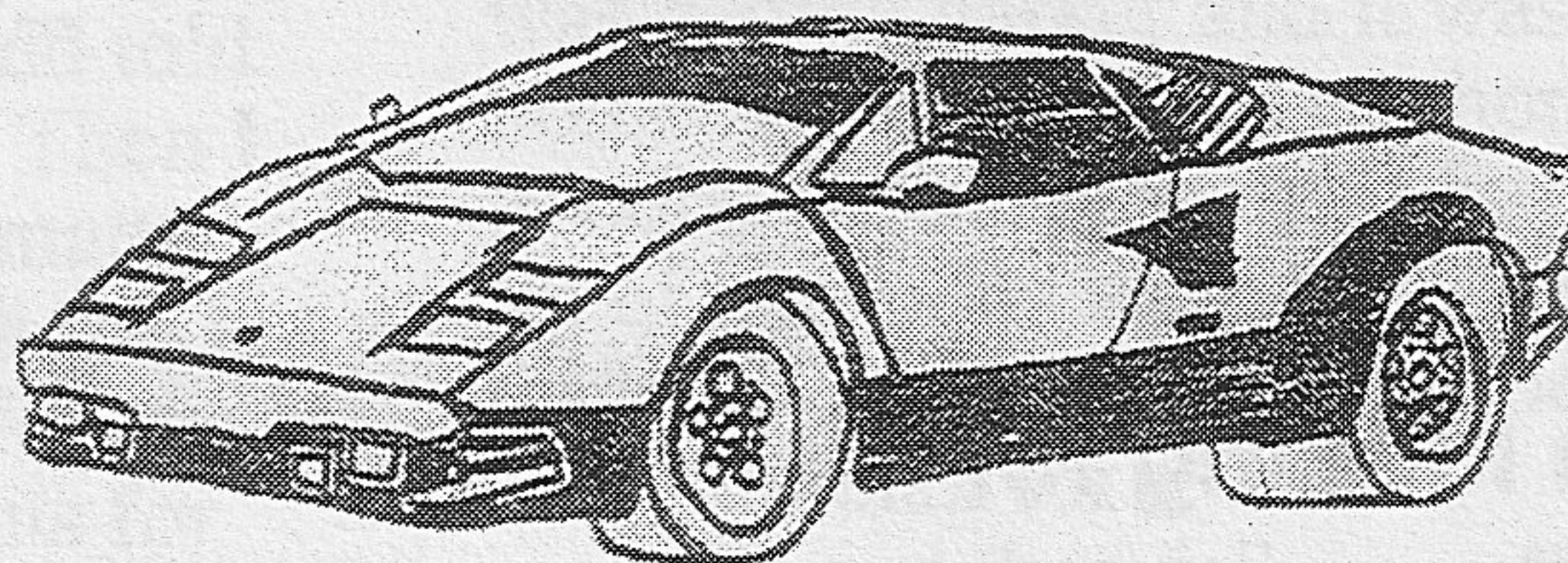
## Lamborghini Countach



Lamborghini Countach is one of the best cars in the world. It was fabricated in Italy. It was designed by Marcello Gandini and engineered by Paolo Stanzani. Countach was first tested in 1971. It has a top speed of 183 miles per hour. It contains 455 horse power and a five-speed manual. It contains a double-overhead-cam, fuel-injected, V12 and water cooled engine/drivetrain. It costs more than \$200,000. Maybe it's expensive but it's a comfortable, good-looking, and fast car.

∞ Suresh Sriskandarajah ∞

55  
LAMBORGHINI  
COUNTACH



By Ricky



Ricky





## Beyond the future

I'm seeing the future. It's me! With a lot of paper; it's money! I'm rich. Sitting on a couch with money all over the ground. I don't have to go to school. Everything I need is just a finger press away. I'm having a headache thinking of what to do about the money. An idea is coming through. Burst! I know what to do with the money now! I'll donate it all to a charity. Oops. What kind of idea is this? Yeah, I'll put the money in the bank and live on the interest. Yes, what a great idea! I start to put all the money in a few garbage bags. Now I'm walking to the bank carrying all the money. I get tired so I put the bags down. I rest. I look to the side of me. The bags are gone! A garbage man took them, thinking that it was garbage. The truck goes and I chase after it. I fail to get them back. I'm broke, bankrupt, and sadly I have no future!

∞ *BuuNhan Kha* ∞

## What I am looking for in the future



I'm looking forward to getting an education first, then becoming a rich and famous doctor, and getting married to a good looking man who cares about me and gives me sweet love when I want it. I want six kids (3 girls and 3 boys) and I want to name the boys Marcus, Rohan and Junior and the girls, Elisha, Lisa and Crystal. When they grow up, I want them to be something good and get their education too. I really want a Mercedes Benz and to live in a big house with 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 living rooms and an indoor pool and 3 maids—one to clean, one to cook and one to put my kids to sleep. This is a future which most people want in life and that is what I want too.

∞ *Randa Ibrahim* ∞

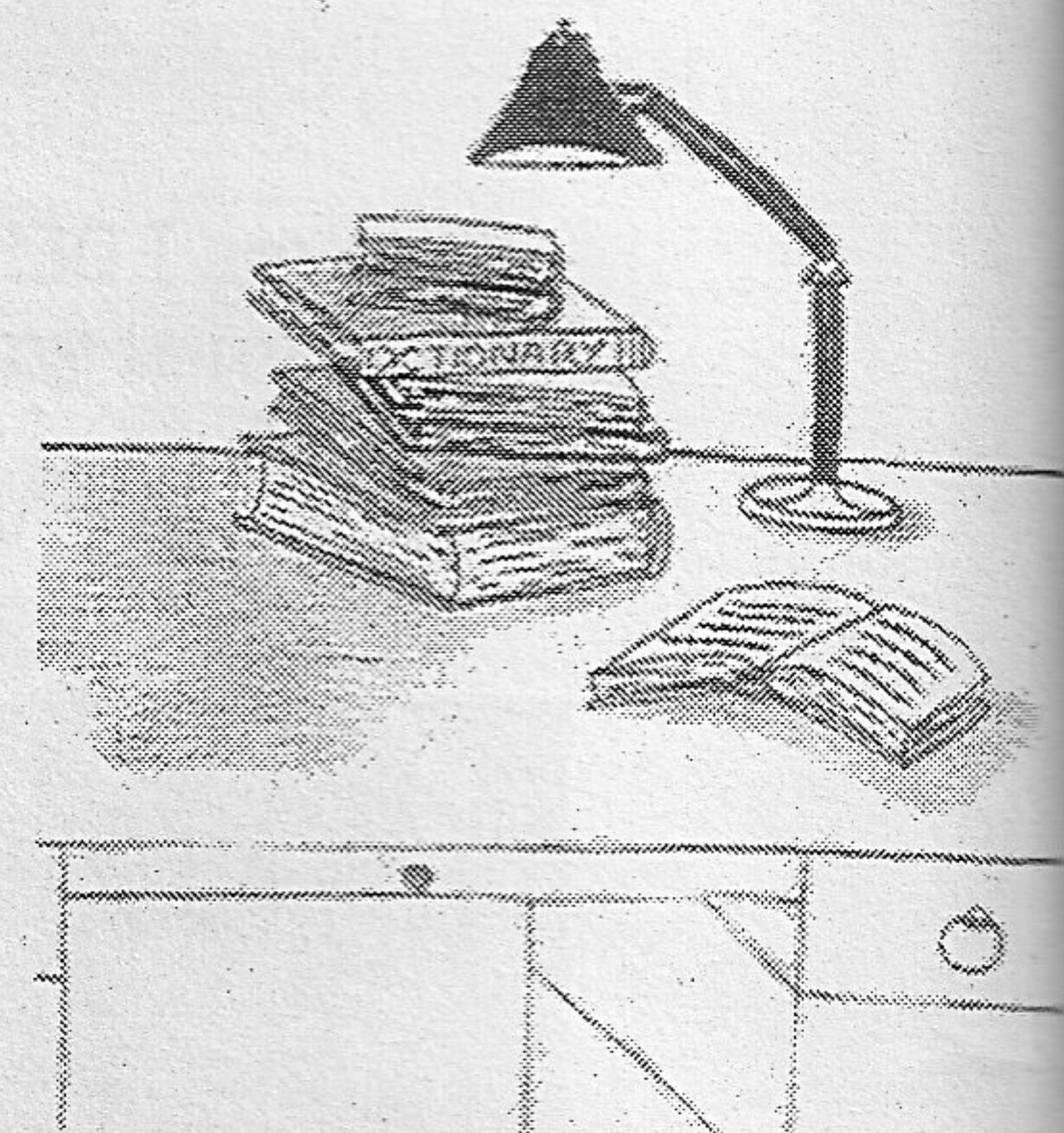
## Who am I in the future?



My name is Nichole Gabbidon and I was born in Jamaica in 1980. I lived there for 13 years and moved to Canada when I was 14. From the time I was about 5 years old, I have always dreamed of being a writer and some day I will be one.

In the future, I can picture myself as a very successful writer with books that are selling all around the world. I am well known for my books and I'm very famous. Some of the books I would like to write are, romance, horror, mysteries and about teenagers. I would also like to have a loving, rich husband with two lovely kids who are doing well in school. We will live in a big house with pool and two cars. To get all that in the future, I have to do my best in school and I plan to do just that.

∞ *Nichole Gabbidon* ∞



## Future hope



What I hope to see myself doing in the future is to be playing in some kind of professional sport, preferably football. But if I don't play football I would still like to be a hard worker so I can be a successful and wealthy person. I see myself having two or three homes, a mansion in the city, a log cabin in the country, and a nice big beach home by the ocean. If I become wealthy, I will buy my parents the nicest house and any car they want. That is what I hope the future holds for me—or you would say my dreams.

∞ *Travis Tritten* ∞



## Summer break

Within a few days the school year would be ending. I was sitting on a sofa and was wondering what my summer vacation would turn out to be like. I kept on thinking for an idea for a length of time; nothing happened and it confused me so much that it made my brain almost explode.

When my friend and I were talking on the phone to discuss this vacation, I thought that he could help me somehow. But he could not and I thought that two brains working together could come up with a brilliant idea but I was wrong. Nothing changed; it is still the same. No one has given me any ideas so therefore I had to figure it out by myself, but it was still the same anyways.

One day when I came home from school, my brother was watching cartoons and I joined him with a bag of chips. When I saw a commercial on T.V. which showed Canada's Wonderland with many nice theme rides, I had a great idea. I quickly ran to pick up the phone and called my friend. I was so excited and told my friend all about what I had just seen. Then I told him that I was going to go there no matter what and I asked him to come along with me. We both organized and gathered things for our trips. Our next step was to ask our parents for some money and then to add it to our money to see if it was enough. We were meet each other at the Mac's store. Nobody was driving us so we decided to travel on bike by ourselves. We rode all the way there without

stopping to rest. When we got there we locked our bikes together, attached them to the pole and followed the people to the ticket booth. The place was crowded and it was hot. It took us more than half an hour to get a ticket. When we entered the gates, we saw that the place was huge! We were both confused as to where to go and then opened up the instruction book and followed directions on the map. We went around and went on the rides to play. We tried a lot of rides and we both had a lot of fun. We did not get dizzy because we had played so much of these before. Both of us went to the food stand to buy some food and drinks. But I did not realize the food was expensive. So we only could afford one large fries and a drink. Both of us felt hungry because we had been playing for a long period of time without eating anything.

When we had finished, both of us went to the arcade to play games. We changed a few quarters —enough for both of us to play. It was getting darker and it was time for us to go home. When we both got home we said goodbye to each other. My parents asked me a lot of questions and I told them every single thing. When they had finished I went to my room to relax for a moment and then fell asleep. Then I dreamed of the nice things that had just happened that day.

∞ Duke Nguy ∞



## Summer plans



When school finishes on June 15th, my family and I will go to Germany for two weeks. Afterwards, we will visit Paris and Hungary. In the beginning of August, we will be leaving Hungary to go to Italy to visit my oldest brother and his wife and children. My oldest brother has two boys and a girl. After three weeks in Italy, we will make our last trip to Hawaii where we will be staying at a hotel called Honolulu. That hotel will offer us five rooms each with its own bathroom, its own kitchen, and room service. That's perfect for my family because

there's my younger brother, older sister, my mother, my father and I on the trip. I hope I have a good time on my trip. For next year, my family and I will to other countries such as Australia, Cuba, Russia, and Alaska.

∞ Kulmie Dahir ∞





## My future of dedication



My future hope is to be a doctor in order to have the career my parents never had. My mother never had a chance to finish school. In my country the only people who get to go to school are considered lucky. My father went to school and finished

school and that makes me happy. I am also glad that he chose to come to Canada. In Canada his family is safe and his children have everything they dreamed of. Even if my mother had gone to school, the older and younger women would say, "Why do you need an education if you're already married and you shouldn't be going to school because women belong in the kitchen." Well, this is the 90's and we women can do whatever we want to do.

I love children because they're so precious and they are our future. We should teach them to respect others and not to solve conflicts with their fists.

It's never easy preparing for your dreams because no one can make them happen. Only you can make your dreams come true. You have to get very high marks, especially in

Science and you also need Math, etc.

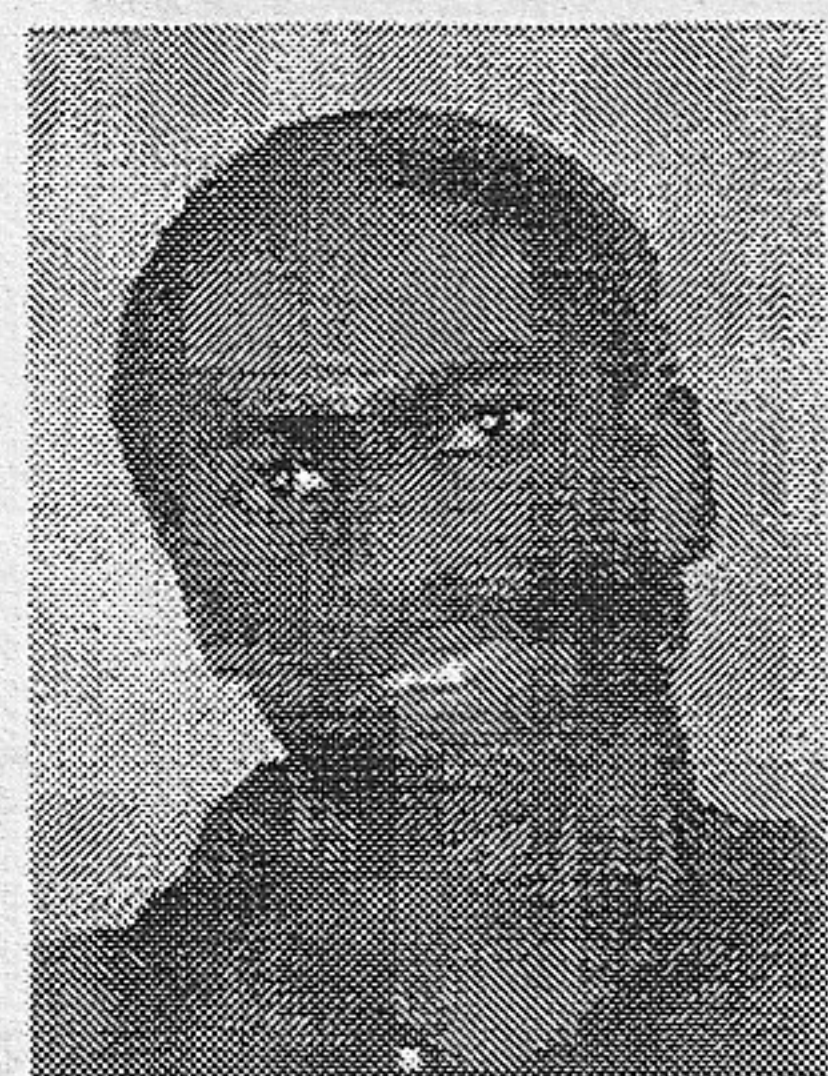
One thing I don't like is cutting people open. It makes me sick when I see the insides of a person. Once I cut myself with a knife and you could almost see my bones. I was wrecked out. I went crazy when I saw it. After this experience I will never want to witness that again.

If I become a doctor, I would give up the money to go back to my country. Money doesn't make me happy, compared to seeing a child smile and not crying because of what they went through. I feel so sad for having this happening to children who are one month old. Sometimes they cry all their lives. Children shouldn't be killed over differences between two countries. After the war it doesn't solve a thing and it turns out that they killed all of those people for nothing. It makes me sick to see grown men and women fighting. I still think it scars them for life and they need someone who understands them. These are the dreams I want to come true.

∞ *Chean Kheav* ∞



## My plans for this summer



My plans for this summer will start when school finishes. I am going to be moving to a new house, but I will still be going to Westview. After I move in and unpack, my brothers and I are going to go to New York city to visit my uncle and his son. We are going to Hudson and my mom and dad and my sister are going to meet us there. We are going there to visit my sister, because she just had a baby.

After a few weeks we are going to come back to Toronto to our new house and then in three weeks my older brother and I are getting a football scholarship. We would be staying with my dad's friends. I would be there for three weeks and then I would come back home and when school starts, I would be back here in Westview.

My mom and my dad have been planning these trips for three weeks. I feel good about going on the trip because I would be seeing my sister, my uncle and my dad's friend. When school starts, I would be happy to come back to Westview because I have a lot of friends that are going to be coming back here too.

∞ *Andrew Ocomojobi* ∞



## D.O.A

Our band is made up of four grade 9 students. We hope to get a record contract and to perform in many places around North America. We have about twenty songs written and played by us. My personal goal is to show all the people who doubted us, what we can do. We put a lot of feelings into our music, but we still know how to party among the coolest. Our neighbours complain when we practise. We mainly play punk rock and heavy metal. We hope to see ourselves successful in the future. I guess that's it. So rock on!

D.O.A. is

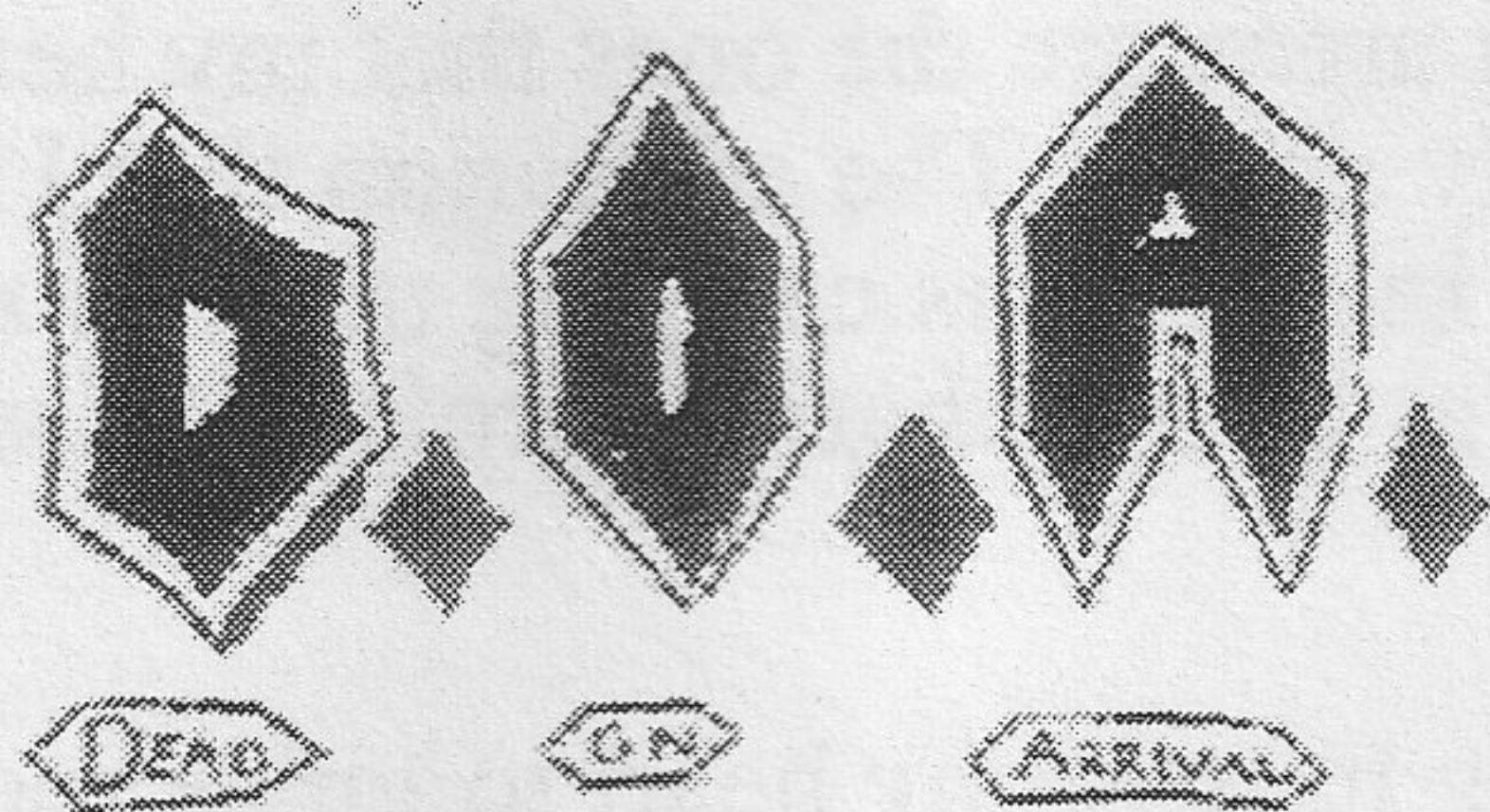
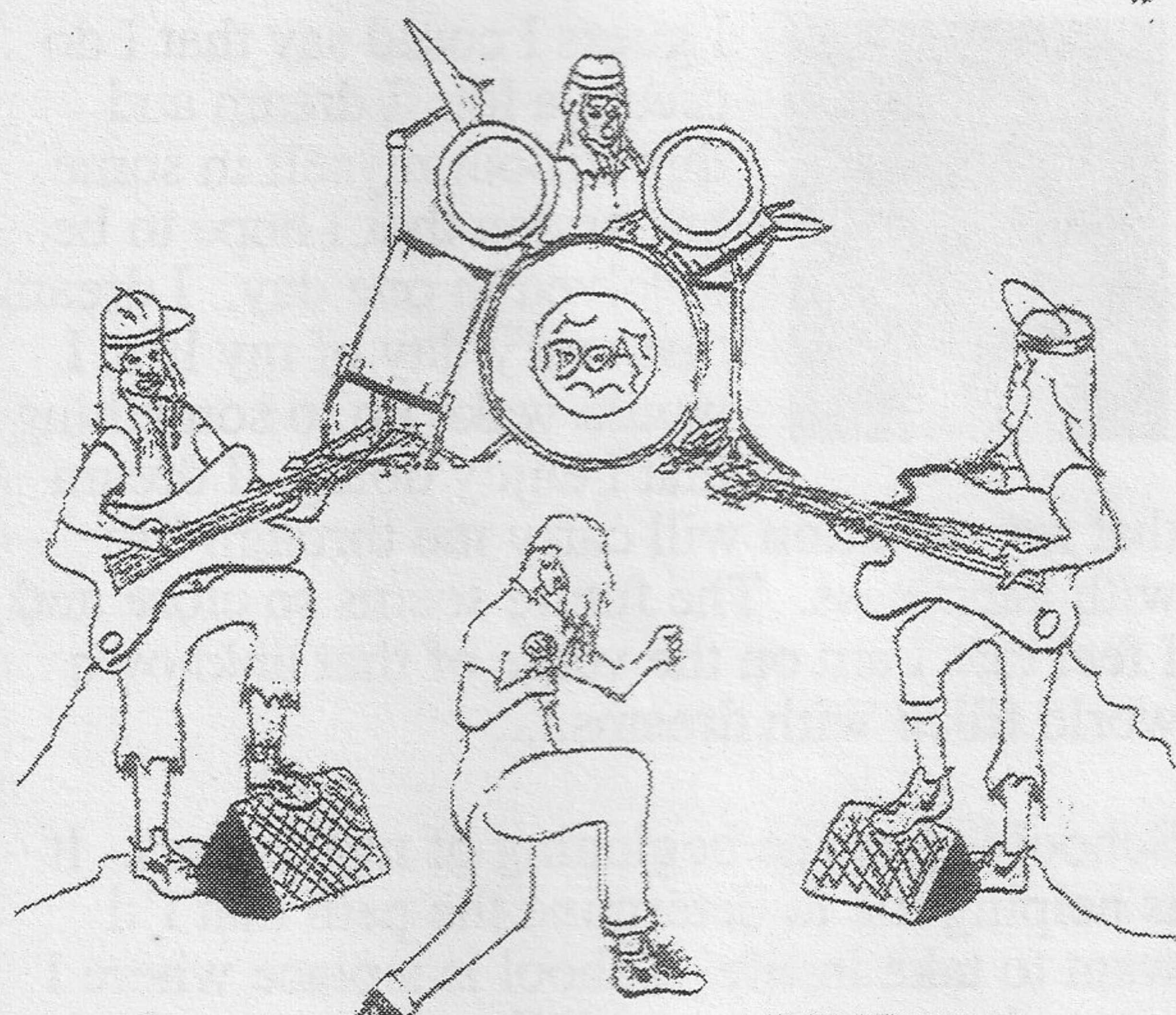
Julian Gangaram: Rhythm guitar/vocals

Carlos "Hit man" Chicas: Bass

Mark ieng: Lead guitar/ vocal

Brian "Snake" Lee: Drums/vocal

∞ *Brian Lee* ∞



## Upcoming summer



This summer is going to be fantastic! A couple of my friends and I have just started a band. The band is called D.O.A. We play grunge and alternative rock. We have five people in our band. They are: Julian, Brian, Carlos, Ted, and me.

We are going to be playing a lot in the summer. The rest of the time, I'll be going to Canada's Wonderland, playing tennis, and other stuff. But my mind is now set on rocking this place (my friend's house).

Two friends of mine and I have known each other for a couple of years and we found our bass player and our drummer here in Westview.

Hopefully, we can get our demo tape played over the air and get an album out. Then we'll perform at clubs and maybe play at Lolapalooza (a concert that is similar to Woodstock but not as big). But all that will take a while. So for now, we'll just party on!

∞ *Mark Dieng* ∞



## When I grow up I want to be



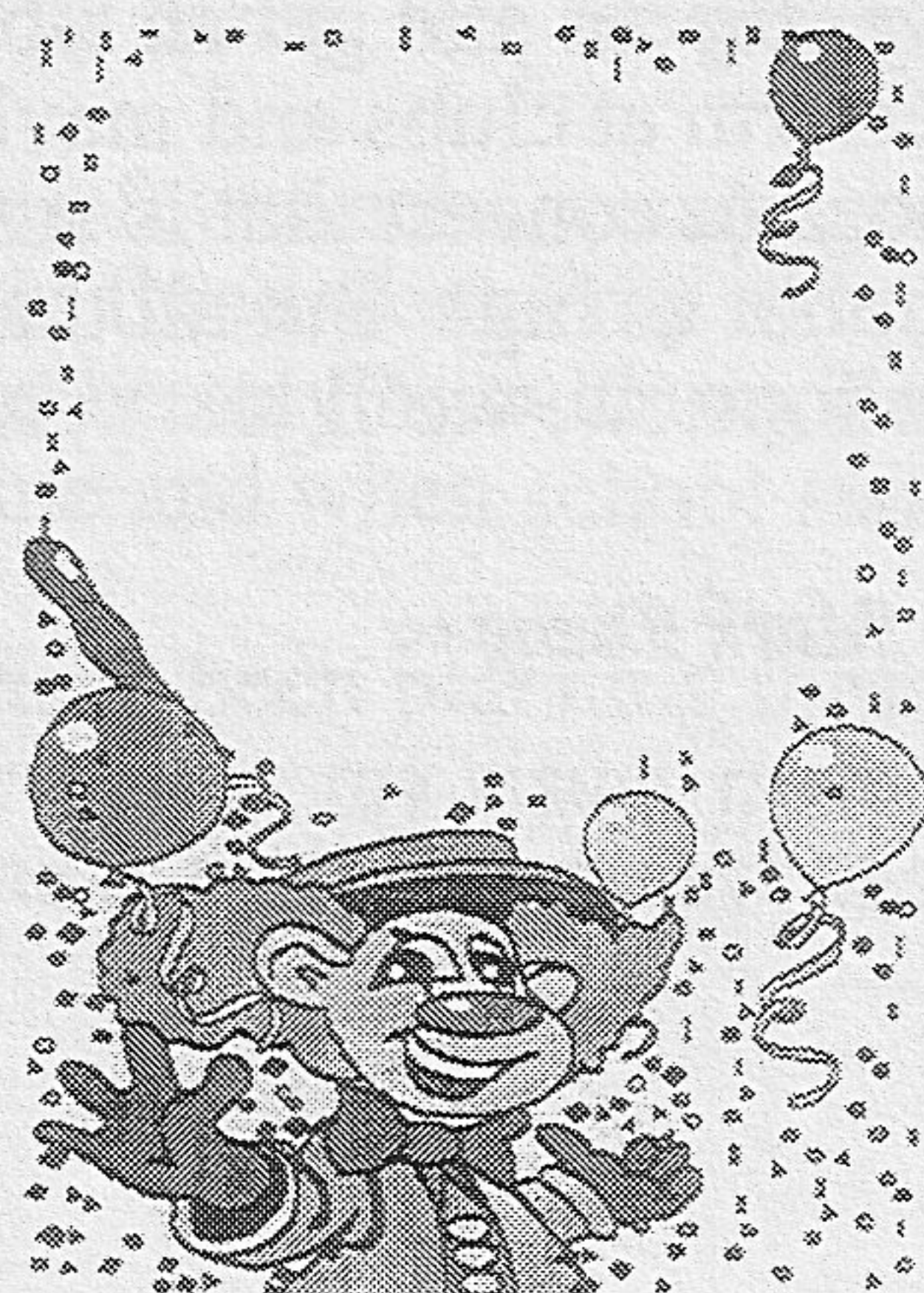
When I grow up, I want to be an actor because I love making jokes and I love seeing people laugh at them too.

The people who encouraged me to be an actor are my brothers and sisters. They kept telling me to go on Star Search or go and do a comedy show for CJC fashion. Whenever they tell me that, I feel so excited. I feel so happy because they "got my back all the way". Sometimes they will tell me that I act so stupid but it doesn't bother me. I would just tell them, "Well, sometimes you've just got to think back to when you were a little kid because it was a lot of fun and you could do and get anything you want."

In my young days, I was the spoilt one in my family. I was the last one born so I had a better advantage of getting and doing things in the house. For example, every night my mom would order a small box of pizza and she would eat about 2 or 3 slices out of the box. Then she would leave the rest for the next day, but I would always be the first one downstairs in the morning to see if she bought any pizza and if she did, then I would take the last pieces that were in the box. And because I am the spoilt one, my mom wouldn't say anything to me. She would only say, "Ah, how you so greedy so..."

My mother always used to ask me what I want to be when I grow up. I always told her that I want to be an actor.

∞ Alvin Patrick ∞



## Endless dreams



I guess I could say that I do dream a lot. I dream and think about myself in some profession that I hope to be involved in one day. I dream that every day of my life, I would wake up to something that I enjoy doing. I dream

that my devotion will carry me through life with happiness. The future seems so close and I feel that I am on the verge of that unknown world filled with dreams.....

School is just the beginning of my dreams. It is helping me to determine the path that I'd want to take in life. School is a place where I expand my interests in different areas to find out which areas are the ones that my heart feels so strongly about. The education that I am receiving in school is carrying me through life now, just as I hope that my profession would later on.

I am going to trust my heart to guide me up to the path to where my dreams flow into the world about me. In order to make my dreams become a reality, I will give my all and never let them perish within me, nor to have them diminish into a forgotten memory.

∞ Lily Mac ∞



## Who I am - past, present and future

My name is Victor Rosales. I was born on October 4 1980 in El Salvador. I live with my parents and my mother and sister. My sister is six and my brother is twenty. My brother has a baby girl who will be two in July.

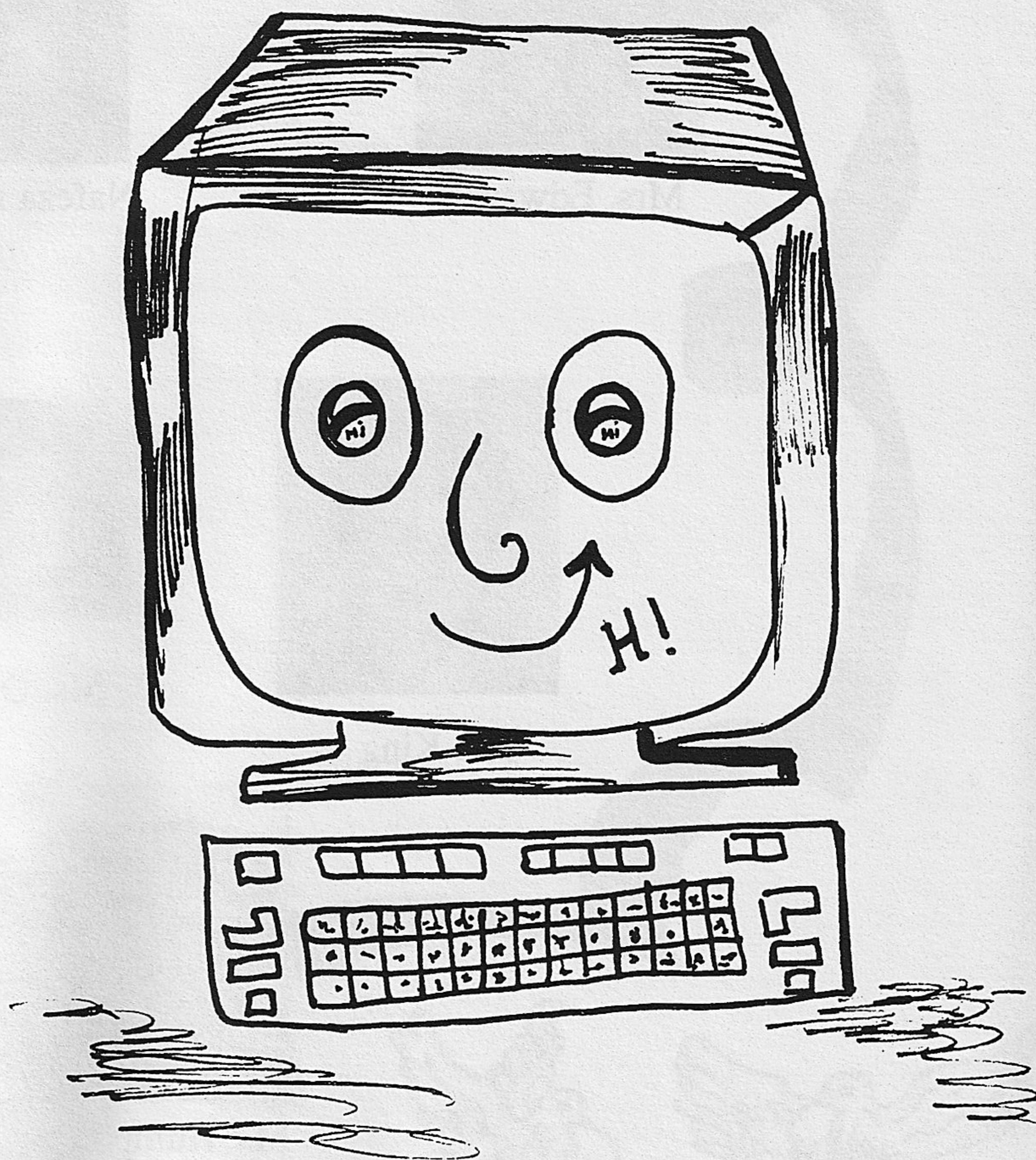
I came to Canada in 1986, with my mother and brother. I was five and a half and my brother was twelve when we came to Canada. We came to Canada because my father was here in Canada and my mother wanted my brother and I to get a better education.

My favourite memory from the past is when I met my father at the airport in Montreal. I had not seen my father for about five and a half years. My dad was very happy to see my mother, brother and me after all that time. I felt shy with my father because I had not seen him for a long time. We got to know each other after that and that was my favourite memory from the past.

My first impression of Canada was that it was a cold country because the temperature was about 0 degrees celsius when I came here. The lowest it ever got in El Salvador was around 10 to 15 degrees.

In my spare time I play sports, play video games, go out and run and listen to music. I like to play sports with my friends but when I am not outside with my friends I am playing video games. When I get up in the morning, I sometimes go out and run. I usually run about three kilometers before I go to school. The only time I listen to music is when I am bored.

∞ *Victor Rosales* ∞





THANKS TO ALL GRADE NINE TEACHERS!



Mr. Pugh



Mr. Peters



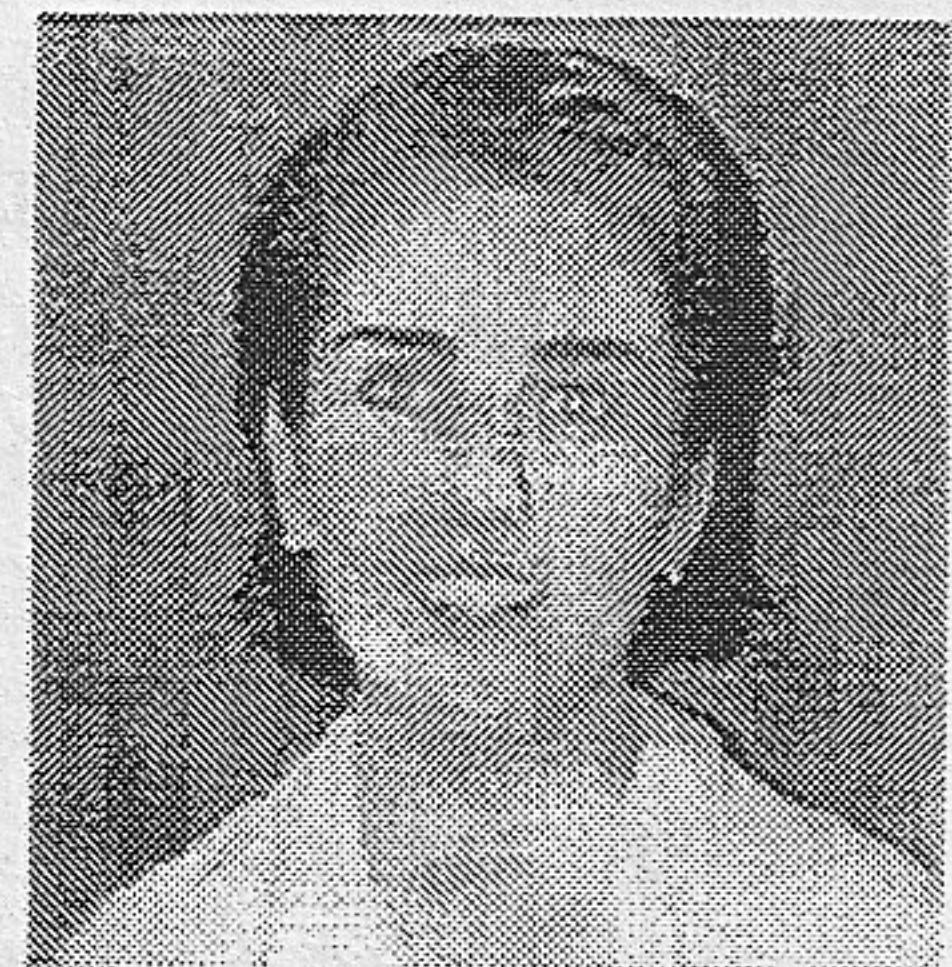
Mr. England



Mrs. Edwards



Nafeza Rahamat



Ms. McNamara



Ms. King



Ms. O'Neill



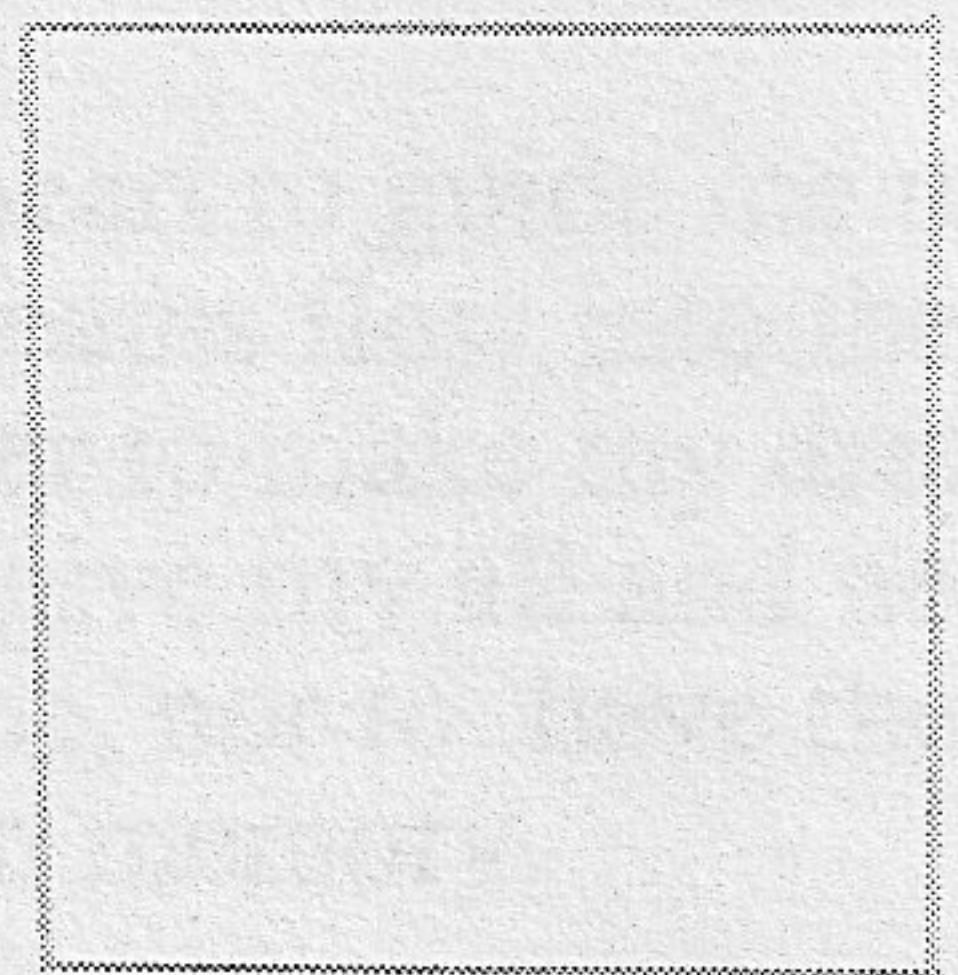
Mr. Rammo



Ms. Humphreys



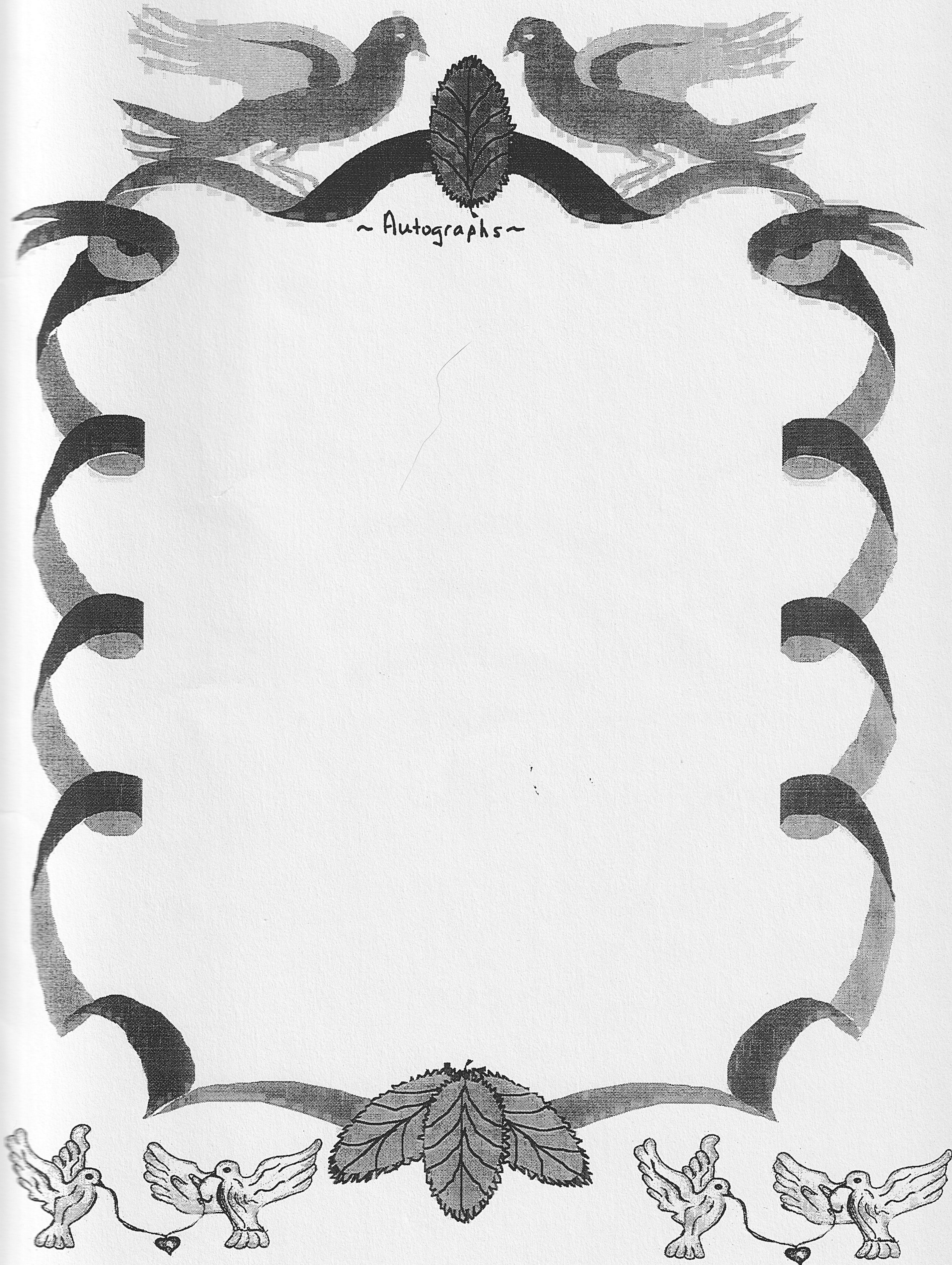
Ms. Eisenstat



Mr. Halls

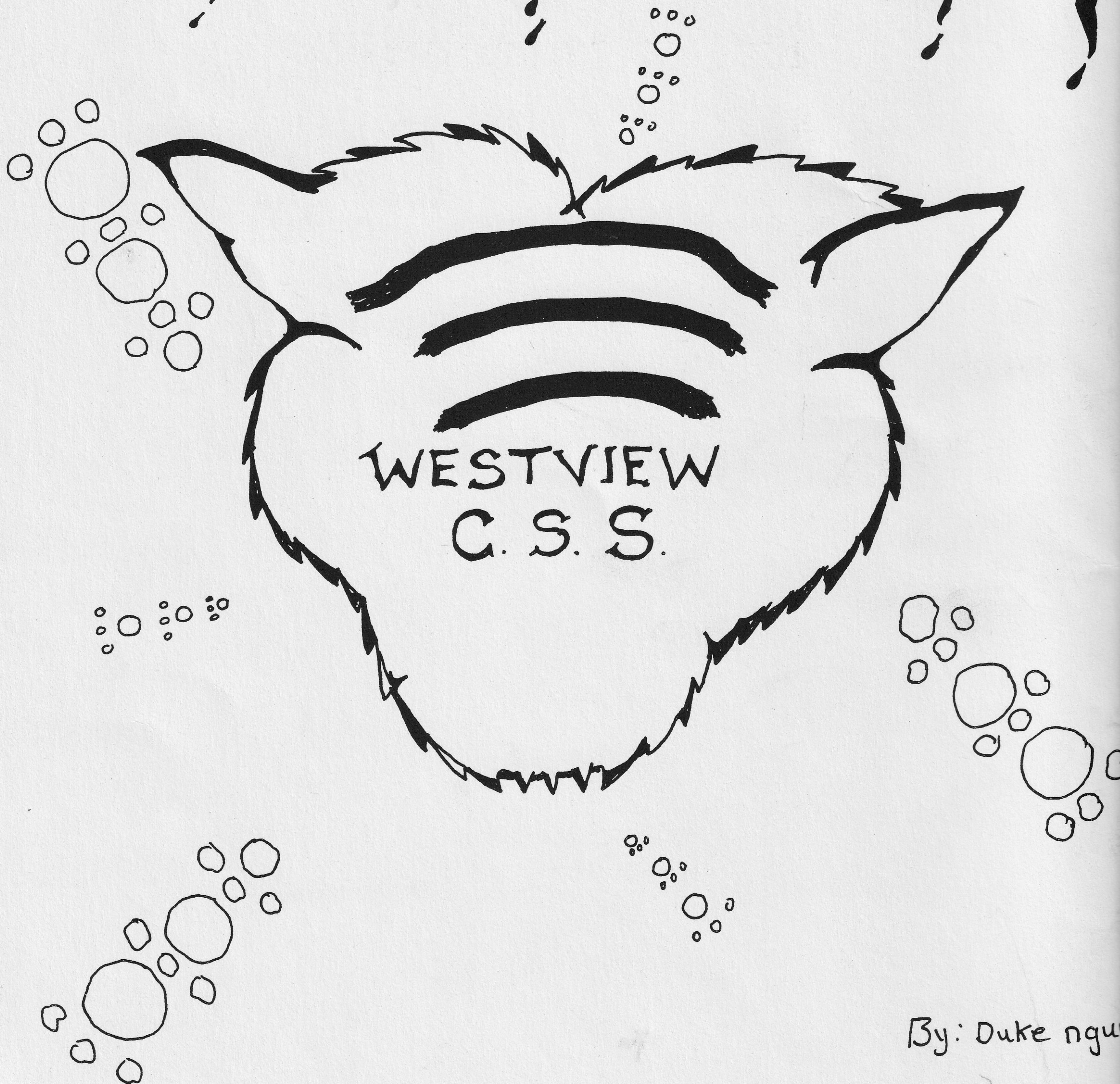


~ Autographs ~





THANKS TO ALL THE  
ARTISTS AND WRITERS



By: Duke ngu